

COMPANIES ACT 2014

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# **AIB Group plc**

## **CONSTITUTION**

***Memorandum***

**- AND -**

***Articles of Association***

Including all amendments effective as of ~~30 April 2026~~ 2 May 2024

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**COMPANIES ACT 2014**

**CONSTITUTION**

**of**

**AIB Group plc**

**MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION**

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1. The name of the Company is AIB Group public limited company.
2. The Company is a public limited company registered under Part 17 of the Companies Act 2014.
3. The objects for which the Company is established are:-
  - (1) To carry on the business of a holding company and to co-ordinate the administration, finances and activities of any subsidiary companies or associated companies, to do all lawful acts and things whatever that are necessary or convenient in carrying on the business of such a holding company and in particular to carry on in all its branches the business of a management services company, to act as managers and to direct or coordinate the management of other companies or of the business, property and estates of any company or person and to undertake and carry out all such services in connection therewith as may be deemed expedient by the Company's board of directors and to exercise its powers as a shareholder of other companies.
  - (2) To acquire the entire issued share capital of Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c., a company incorporated in Ireland (Company Number 24173).
  - (3) To borrow or raise money in any manner and on such terms and for such purposes as the Company shall think fit, whether alone or jointly and/or severally with any person or persons, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by the issue of debentures, debenture stock, notes, instruments or other securities (perpetual or otherwise, whether payable to bearer, certificated or otherwise, to meet regulatory capital requirements, debt and equity securities requirements in relation to the resolution of bank groups or otherwise, and whether subordinated, convertible, senior, secured or otherwise) and to make the same or any of them transferable free from equities, and to secure, with or without consideration, the payment or repayment of any money borrowed, raised, or owing or any debt, obligation or liability of the Company or of any person whatsoever in such manner and on such terms as the Company shall think fit, and in particular by mortgage, charge, lien or debenture or any other security of whatsoever nature or howsoever described, perpetual or otherwise, charged upon all or any of the Company's property, undertaking, rights or assets of any description, both present and future, including its uncalled capital, and to purchase, redeem or pay off any such securities.
  - (4) To lend and advance money or give credit to (including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by the investment in securities of any kind issued by) any persons, firms or companies (including, without prejudice to the

generality of the foregoing, to any subsidiary of the Company and whether to meet regulatory capital requirements, debt and equity securities requirements in relation to the resolution of bank groups or otherwise, and whether subordinated, convertible, senior, secured or otherwise) and to guarantee, grant indemnities in respect of, support or secure, whether by personal covenant or by mortgaging or charging all or any part of the undertaking, property and assets (present and future), goodwill and uncalled capital of the Company or by both such methods, the performance of the contracts or obligations of and the repayment or payment of the principal amounts of any premiums, interest and dividends on any securities of any person, firm or company, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) any company which is for the time being the Company's holding company or another subsidiary (each term as defined in the Companies Act 2014) of the Company's holding company or otherwise associated with the Company in business notwithstanding the fact that the Company may not receive any consideration, advantage or benefit, direct or indirect from entering into such guarantee or other arrangement or transaction contemplated therein.

- (5) As an object of the Company and as a pursuit in itself or otherwise and whether for the purpose of making a profit or avoiding a loss or managing a currency or interest rate exposure or any other exposure or for any other purpose whatsoever, to engage in currency exchange, interest rate and commodity transactions, derivative transactions and any other financial or other transactions of whatever nature in any manner and on any terms and for any purposes whatsoever, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any transaction for the purpose of, or capable of being for the purposes of, avoiding, reducing, minimising, hedging against or otherwise managing the risk of any loss, cost, expense, or liability arising, or which may arise, directly or indirectly, from a change or changes in any interest rate or currency exchange rate or in the price or value of any property, asset, commodity, index or liability or from any other risk or factor affecting the Company's business, including but not limited to dealings whether involving purchases, sales or otherwise in foreign currency, spot and/or forward rate exchange contracts, futures, options, forward rate agreements, swaps, caps, floors, collars and any such other foreign exchange or interest rate or commodity or other hedging arrangements and such other instruments as are similar to, or derived from, any of the foregoing.
- (6) To acquire and undertake the whole or any part of the business, property and liabilities of any person or company carrying on any business which the Company is authorised to carry on, or possessed of property or rights suitable for the purposes of the Company and in particular the undertaking business and goodwill of any subsidiary company carrying on business independently of the Company or in competition with it.
- (7) To enter into partnership or into any arrangement for sharing profits, union of interest, co-operation, joint adventure, reciprocal concession, or otherwise with any person or company carrying on or engaged in or about to carry on or engaged in any business or transaction which the Company is authorised to carry on or engage in, or any business or transaction capable of being conducted so as directly or indirectly to benefit the Company. To lend money to, guarantee the contracts of or otherwise assist any such person or company and to take or otherwise acquire shares (whether partly or fully paid) and securities of any such company, and to sell, hold, re-issue, with or without guarantee, or otherwise deal with the same.

- (8) To amalgamate with any other company having objects altogether or in part similar to those of the Company.
- (9) To promote any company or companies for the purpose of acquiring all or any of the property, rights and liabilities of the Company, or for any other purpose which may seem directly or indirectly calculated to benefit the Company.
- (10) To form, promote, acquire, finance, amalgamate with, subsidise and assist building societies, friendly societies, banks, unit trusts, insurance companies or other commercial undertakings of any kind, or any companies, corporations or syndicates of any kind, and to finance, subsidise or assist any firms or individuals, and to negotiate loans of every description with any government state, municipal or other authority, corporation, company, syndicate, firm or person.
- (11) To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire and hold for any estate or interest any real and personal property and any rights or privileges which the Company may think necessary or convenient for the purposes of its business, and in particular any land and buildings).
- (12) To erect, construct, lay down, enlarge, alter, reconstruct and maintain any buildings and works necessary or convenient for the Company's business.
- (13) To pay for any business, property or rights acquired by the Company wholly or partially in shares, debentures, debenture stock or other securities or obligations of the Company or belonging to the Company, and whether fully or partly paid, and as part of terms of any such purchase or otherwise to grant options upon any unissued shares of the Company.
- (14) To sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the undertaking of the Company or any part thereof or all or any part of the property of the Company for such consideration as the Company may think fit, and in particular for shares (fully or partly paid), debentures, stocks or securities of any other company having objects altogether or in part similar to those of the Company and generally on such terms as the Company may determine, and to hold, deal with or dispose of any consideration so received.
- (15) Generally to sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, mortgage enfranchise, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property and rights of the Company including any investments and securities acquired or agreed to be acquired and generally to vary the investments and securities of the Company from time to time.
- (16) To take, accept, enforce, release or deal with any security for any moneys owing or to become owing to the Company, or for any liabilities incurred or to be incurred towards or by the Company by way of mortgage, pledge hypothecation, deposit or otherwise howsoever of every kind of property or rights (including the security of shares in the Company).
- (17) To hold, maintain, improve and deal with as may seem expedient any property which the Company may become entitled to by foreclosure or otherwise and for the purpose of better realising or dealing with any security to purchase or otherwise acquire the equity of redemption of any share or other interest in any property upon or in connection with which the Company may have any charge or lien.

- (18) To act as trustee for the holders of or otherwise in relation to any stocks shares debentures, debenture stock, bonds or other securities or obligations issued or to be issued by any government, state, principality, local or other authority municipal or other corporation, company or association, and generally to undertake and execute any trusts (whether public or private), the undertaking whereof it may seem desirable to undertake, and to undertake and execute in the Republic of Ireland, Great Britain, Northern Ireland or elsewhere in the world where it may be lawful to do so, and either alone or jointly with others and either in its own name or through or by means of a syndic or officer of or appointed by the Company, the office of receiver, trustee, custodian trustee executor, administrator, committee, treasurer, comptroller, registrar, curator, accountant, or any other office of trust or confidence, and gratuitously or otherwise to perform and discharge the duties incident to any such office and to transact all kinds of business arising in connection therewith, and to keep for any company, corporation, government, state, principality, authority or body (supreme, municipal, local or otherwise) any register relating to any stocks funds shares or securities, or any real or personal property of any kind and to undertake any duties in relation thereto or to the registration of transfers assignments, mortgages, charges, cautions, deeds, documents or other things or the issue of certificates or otherwise, and to act as agent, attorney or nominee solely or jointly for any person or persons, company, corporation, government, state, principality, authority or body (supreme, municipal, local or otherwise).
- (19) To make deposits, enter into recognizances and bonds, and otherwise to give security for the due execution and performance (whether by the Company or any syndic or officer of the Company or by any other company or any person) of the duties of executors, administrators, trustees, receivers, managers committees or liquidators, or any other duties, or any contracts agreements or obligations, and to obtain insurances of every description and to transact all kinds of agency business.
- (20) To furnish or provide deposits, caution moneys and guarantee funds required in relation to any tender or application for any contract, concession decree enactment, property or privilege, or in relation to the carrying out of any contract, concession, decree or enactment.
- (21) To carry on the business of an investment and holding company and to invest the capital and other moneys of the Company in the purchase or upon the security of, or otherwise acquire and hold, any shares, stocks, debentures debenture stocks, bonds, mortgages, obligations and securities of any kind issued or guaranteed by any company, corporation or undertaking of whatever nature and wheresoever constituted or incorporated or carrying on business and shares, stocks, debentures, debenture stocks, bonds, obligations and other securities issued or guaranteed by any government, sovereign ruler, commissioners, trust, local authority or other public body, whether at home or abroad; to acquire any such shares, stocks, bonds, mortgages, obligations and securities by subscription, syndicate participation, tender, purchase exchange or otherwise either conditionally or otherwise, and to underwrite or guarantee the subscription thereof and to exercise and enforce all rights and powers conferred by or incident to the ownership thereof and to act as managers of any syndicate.
- (22) To issue warrants, documents of title and other mercantile instruments or indicia of title or possession against deposits of all kinds made with the Company.

- (23) To give any guarantee or become liable for the payment of money or for the performance of any obligation or undertaking of any kind, including but not limited to the guarantee of the payment of principal or interest or principal and interest or dividends upon any bonds, debentures, debenture stocks mortgages, charges, obligations and securities or stocks or shares of any government, municipal, local or other authority, public or private body or company, whether incorporated or not incorporated and whether made or effected or acquired through the agency of the Company or otherwise.
- (24) To promote, seek, apply for and obtain any charter or letters patent to any act, provisional order or decree of the Oireachtas or any parliament or legislative assembly or sovereign or any provisional or other order of any supreme ministerial, municipal or local authority or other proper authority for enabling the Company to carry any of its objects into effect, or for effecting any modification of the Company's constitution, or for any other purpose which may seem expedient, and to oppose any proceedings or applications which may seem calculated, directly or indirectly, to prejudice the Interests of the Company.
- (25) To enter into any arrangements with any government, states, principalities or authorities (supreme, municipal, local or otherwise) which may seem conducive to the objects of the Company or any of them, and to obtain from any such government, state, principality or authority, and thereafter to carry out exercise develop and otherwise deal with and turn to account any concessions' franchises, charters, patents, monopolies, privileges or rights whatsoever and wheresoever.
- (26) To procure the Company to be registered, licensed or recognised in Great Britain, in Northern Ireland and in any other country or place outside the Republic of Ireland.
- (27) To adopt such means of making known the business and services of the Company as may seem expedient, and in particular by advertising in the press and other accepted advertising media, by publishing brochures and by granting donations.
- (28) To take or concur in taking all such steps and proceedings as may seem best calculated to uphold and support the credit of the Company, and to obtain and justify public confidence, and to avert or minimise financial disturbances which might affect the Company.
- (29) To promote freedom of contract and to resist, insure against, counteract and discourage interference therewith, to join any lawful federation, union or association, or do any other lawful act or thing with a view to preventing or resisting directly or indirectly any interruption of or interference with the Company's or any other trade or business, or providing or safeguarding against the same, or resisting or opposing any strike movement or organisation which may be thought detrimental to the interests of the Company or its employees and to subscribe to any association or fund for any such purposes.
- (30) To establish and maintain or procure the establishment and maintenance of any non-contributory or contributory pension or superannuation funds for the benefit of, and to give or procure the giving of donations, gratuities, pensions allowances or emoluments to any persons who are or were at any time In the employment or service of the Company or of any company which is a subsidiary of the Company or is allied to or associated with the Company or with any such

subsidiary, or who are or were at any time Directors or officers of the Company or of any such other company, as aforesaid, or any persons in whose welfare the Company or any such other company as aforesaid is or has been at any time interested and the wives, widows, families and dependants of any such persons, and also to establish and subsidise or subscribe to any institutions, associations, clubs or funds calculated to be for the benefit of or to advance the interests and well-being of the Company or of any other such company as aforesaid or of any such persons as aforesaid, and to make payments for or towards the insurance of any such persons as aforesaid and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable or benevolent objects or for any exhibition or for any public, general or useful object, and to do any of the matters aforesaid either alone or in conjunction with any such other company as aforesaid.

- (31) To distribute any of the assets or property of the Company, whether upon a distribution of assets or a division of profits, among the members, in specie or otherwise, and to capitalise profits.
- (32) To do all or any of the above things in any part of the world and as principals agents, contractors, trustees, or otherwise and by or through trustees agents' branches, or otherwise, and either alone or in conjunction with others.
- (33) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

And it is hereby declared that the word "company" in this Clause except where used in reference to this Company shall be deemed to include any partnership or other body of persons, whether incorporated or not incorporated, and whether domiciled in the Republic of Ireland, Great Britain, Northern Ireland or elsewhere, and the intention is that the objects specified in each paragraph of this Clause shall except where otherwise expressed in such paragraph, be independent main objects and shall be nowise limited or restricted by reference to or inference from the terms of any other paragraph or the name of the Company, but may be carried out in as full and ample a manner and construed in as wide a sense as if each of the said paragraphs defined the objects of a separate and distinct company provided always that the provisions of this Clause shall be subject to the Company's obtaining, where necessary, for the purpose of carrying any of its objects into effect, such licence, permit, or authority as may be required by law.

- 4. The liability of the members is limited.
- 5. The share capital of the Company is €2,500,000,000 divided into 4,000,000,000 Ordinary Shares of €0.625 each.

## ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

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### PRELIMINARY

1. Sections 83, 84 and 117(9) of the Act shall apply to the Company. Sections 43(2), 43(3), 65, 77 to 81, 95(1), 96, 124, 125, 126, 144(3), 144(4), 148(2), 158, 159 to 165, 178(2), 181(1), 181(6), 182(2), 182(5), 183(3), 187, 188, 218(3) to 218(5), 229, 230, 338(5), 338(6), 618(1)(b), 1090, 1092 and 1113 of the Act shall not apply to the Company.
2. In these Articles the words standing in the first column of the table next hereinafter contained shall bear the meanings set opposite to them respectively in the second column thereof, if not inconsistent with the subject or context.

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| WORDS                                      | MEANINGS   |
|--|--|
| <b>Board</b> .....                         | the board of Directors of the Company for the time being.  |
| <b>central securities depository</b> ..... | has the meaning given to that term by the CSD Regulation.  |
| <b>Chairman</b> .....                      | a Director appointed by the Directors to be Chairman of the Board for the time being (except in reference to proceedings at a general meeting when it shall mean the Chairman of the Meeting).   |
| <b>Chief Executive</b> .....               | a person for the time being holding the office of Chief Executive Officer of the Company or Joint Chief Executive Officer under a contract of service with the Company.  |
| <b>Class Meeting</b> .....                 | a separate General Meeting of holders of one class of shares in the Company.   |
| <b>Committee</b> .....                     | a committee of the Directors appointed pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company at any time prior to the adoption of these Articles (and not dissolved at the date of such adoption) and a committee of Directors or Directors and Officers of the Company appointed by the Directors pursuant to Article 113 of these Articles. |
| <b>CSD Regulation</b> .....                | Regulation (EU) No. 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on improving securities settlement in the European Union and on central securities depositories.  |
| <b>Deputy Chairman</b> .....               | a Director appointed by the Directors to be a Deputy Chairman or an additional Deputy Chairman of the Board for the time being.  |
| <b>electronic communication</b> .....      | has the meaning given in the Electronic Commerce Act 2000 and, in addition, includes in the case of notices or documents issued on behalf of the   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Company, such document being made available or displayed on a website of the Company (or a website designated by the Board) or by delivering, giving or sending the same by electronic mail.  |
| <b>electronic means</b> .....                    | has the meaning given to such expression by the Act.  |
| <b>Euroclear Bank</b> .....                      | Euroclear Bank SA/NV, a company incorporated in Belgium.  |
| <b>Euroclear Nominees</b> .....                  | Euroclear Nominees Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Euroclear Bank, registered in England and Wales.   |
| <b>Euronext Dublin</b> .....                     | the Irish Stock Exchange plc trading as Euronext Dublin.  |
| <b>Euronext Dublin Daily Official List</b> ..... | the daily official list of Euronext Dublin.   |
| <b>Government Body</b> .....                     | any of the Minister for Finance, the National Treasury Management Agency, any Minister or Department of the Government of Ireland or any other entity or agency of or related to the Government of Ireland, and “Government Bodies” shall be construed accordingly.   |
| <b>intermediary</b> .....                        | has the meaning given to that term in Directive 2007/36/EC on the exercise of certain rights of shareholders in listed companies, as amended from time to time, including by Directive 2017/828.  |
| <b>in writing</b> .....                          | written, printed, or represented in visible and legible form or produced or re-produced or presented in such form by electronic, lithographic, manual, mechanical, photographic or photostatic means or process and in particular by electronic communication.        |
| <b>Memorandum</b> .....                          | the Memorandum of Association adopted by the Company and effective on the 24 <sup>th</sup> day of April 2019 and as varied or altered from time to time.  |
| <b>Migration Act</b> .....                       | the Migration of Participating Securities Act 2019.   |
| <b>Officer</b> .....                             | a person (including a Director, alternate Director, Chief Executive, and the Secretary) for the time being holding a recognised executive office under the Company or a person designated an Officer of the Company from time to time by resolution of the Directors. |
| <b>Ordinary Shares</b> .....                     | the ordinary shares of €0.625 each in the capital of the Company.   |
| <b>paid</b> .....                                | in relation to a share, paid and/or credited as paid.   |
| <b>Register of Members</b> .....                 | the register of members of the Company to be kept as required by the Act.   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Secretary</b> .....                      | a person (including the Secretary for the time being at the date of adoption of these Articles) appointed by the Directors pursuant to Section 129 of the Act to be the Secretary for the time being of the Company and shall include a joint secretary for the time being and an assistant secretary or an acting secretary for the time being when discharging the duties of the Secretary or of a joint secretary. |
| <b>Securities System</b> .....              | <b>Settlement</b> a securities settlement system (as defined in the CSD Regulation) operated by a central securities depository.  |
| <b>Stock Exchange(s)</b> .....              | any stock exchange upon which the Company has sought and obtained a listing for any of its shares.  |
| <b>the 1996 Regulations</b> .....           | the Companies Act 1990 (Uncertificated Securities) Regulations 1996 (S.I. No. 68 of 1996) and the Companies Act 1990 (Uncertificated Securities) (Amendment) Regulations 2005, as each are or may be amended or substituted from time to time.  |
| <b>the Act</b> .....                        | the Companies Act 2014 and every statutory modification and re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.   |
| <b>the Acts</b> .....                       | the Act, all statutory instruments which are to be read as one with, or construed or read together as one with, the Act and every statutory modification and re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.  |
| <b>these Articles</b> .....                 | the Articles of Association adopted by the Company and effective on 5 February 2021 and as varied or altered from time to time.   |
| <b>the Directors</b> .....                  | the Board of the Company or the directors present at a duly convened meeting of directors of the Company at which a quorum is present.  |
| <b>the Office</b> .....                     | the registered office for the time being of the Company.  |
| <b>the Official Seal</b> .....              | any seal adopted by the Company pursuant to Section 44 of the Act as an official seal of the Company for use abroad.  |
| <b>the Official Seal — Securities</b> ..... | the seal adopted by the Company pursuant to Section 1017 of the Act as an official seal for use in sealing securities issued by the Company and documents creating or evidencing securities so issued.  |
| <b>the Seal</b> .....                       | the common seals of the Company (sometimes referred to as the "Corporate Seal") adopted pursuant to Section 25(2) and Section 43(1) of the Act in use at the date of adoption of these Articles or a common seal substituted therefor from time to time pursuant to the Acts.   |

**Uncertificated Securities Regulations**..... has the meaning given to that term in Article 10.

Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number, and vice versa.

Words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender.

Words importing persons shall include corporations.

References to any statute or statutory provision shall be construed as relating to any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof from time to time.

In these Articles "€" and "c" shall refer to euro and cent respectively.

A Special Resolution shall be effective for any purpose for which an Ordinary Resolution is expressed to be required under any provision of these Articles.

Subject as aforesaid, any words or expressions defined in the Acts shall, if not otherwise defined in these Articles and if not inconsistent within the subject or context in which they are used, bear the same meanings in these Articles.

### **CAPITAL**

3. The share capital of the Company is €2,500,000,000 divided into 4,000,000,000 Ordinary Shares of €0.625 each.
4. [Not used]
5. Subject to the provisions of the Acts and without prejudice to any special rights for the time being conferred on the holders of any existing shares or class of shares, any share in the Company may be issued with such preferred, deferred or other special rights, or such restrictions, whether in regard to dividend, return of capital, voting or otherwise as the Company may by Ordinary Resolution determine or as the Directors may from time to time determine pursuant to any power conferred on them by these Articles, and any preference share may be issued on the terms that it is, or at the option of the Company is to be liable, to be redeemed on such terms and in such manner as the Company may by Special Resolution determine.

### **VARIATION OF RIGHTS**

6. Whenever the capital of the Company is divided into different classes of shares, the special rights attached to any class may, subject to the provisions of the Acts and subject as otherwise provided in these Articles, be varied or abrogated, either whilst the Company is a going concern or during or in contemplation of a winding up, with the sanction of a Special Resolution passed at a Class Meeting of the holders of the shares of the relevant class but not otherwise. To every such Class Meeting all the provisions of these Articles relating to General Meetings of the Company and to the proceedings thereat shall, mutatis mutandis, apply, except that the necessary quorum shall be two persons holding or representing by proxy at least one third in nominal amount of the issued shares of the class and if at any adjourned meeting of such holders a quorum as above defined is not present, any member of such class who is present in person or by proxy shall be a quorum. The holders of shares of the class shall, on a poll, have one vote in respect of every share of the class held by them respectively. Any holder of shares of the class in question present in person or by proxy at such meeting may demand a poll.

7. The special rights attached to any class of shares in the capital of the Company shall not (unless otherwise expressly provided by the conditions of issue of such shares) be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* therewith or subsequent thereto.

## SHARE CAPITAL

8. No share of the Company, other than a share allotted in pursuance of an employees' share scheme, shall be allotted except as a share which has been paid up at least to 25 per cent, of the nominal amount of the share and the whole of any premium on it.
9. Subject to the provisions of the Acts relating to authority, pre-emption rights and otherwise and of any resolution of the Company in General Meeting passed pursuant thereto, all unissued shares shall be at the disposal of the Directors and they may allot (with or without conferring a right of renunciation) grant options over or otherwise dispose of them to such persons, at such times and on such terms as they think proper.
10. Any shares may be held in uncertificated form, subject to the Directors having made arrangements with the Operator of a relevant system for that class of shares to be admitted as a participating security for the purposes of that relevant system. The Directors shall have power to make such arrangements in their discretion without the consent of the members. In the event that the Directors shall make such arrangements, and for so long as the relevant class of shares shall continue to be a participating security, these Articles shall not apply to shares of the relevant class which are held in uncertificated form, to the extent that these Articles are inconsistent with either the holding of title to such shares in uncertificated form or the transfer of title to such shares by means of the relevant system or any provision of the 1996 Regulations or regulations made under section 1086 of the Act (the "**Uncertificated Securities Regulations**"), which term shall include, where the context requires or admits the rules, facilities and requirements of the relevant system). For the purposes of these Articles, the expressions "in uncertificated form" and "in certificated form" are to be interpreted in the same manner as in the Uncertificated Securities Regulations and the expressions 'Operator', 'Operator-instruction', 'participating security' and 'relevant system' shall, where applicable, bear the meanings respectively attributed to them in the Uncertificated Securities Regulations. Where any class of shares is held in uncertificated form, the Register of Members in relation to that class shall (notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles) be maintained in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations.
- 10A. To give effect to the Migration, each Holder of the Migrating Shares is deemed to have consented and agreed to the following:
  - (a) the Company is irrevocably instructed to appoint any person (including any officer or employee of the Company, the Registrar, Euroclear Bank and/or EUI) as attorney or agent for the Holders of the Migrating Shares to do everything necessary to complete the transfer of the Migrating Shares to Euroclear Nominees (or such other nominee(s) of Euroclear Bank as it may notify the Company in writing) and do all such other things and execute and deliver all such documents and electronic communications as may be required by Euroclear Bank or as may, in the opinion of such attorney or agent, be necessary or desirable to vest the Migrating Shares in Euroclear Nominees (or such other nominee(s) of Euroclear Bank as it may notify the Company in writing) and, pending such vesting, to exercise all such rights attaching to the Migrating Shares as Euroclear Bank may direct.

- (b) the Registrar may complete the registration of the transfer of the Migrating Shares as described in this Article by registering the Migrating Shares in the name of Euroclear Nominees (or such other nominee(s) of Euroclear Bank as it may notify the Company in writing) without having to furnish the former Holder of the Migrating Shares with any evidence of transfer or receipt;
- (c) that once registered in the name of Euroclear Nominees (or such other nominee(s) of Euroclear Bank as it may notify the Company in writing):
  - (i) the Migrating Shares are to be held on a fungible basis so that a Holder of any of the Migrating Shares shall not be entitled to require the return of exactly the same Participating Securities as are transferred on its behalf as part of the Migration; and
  - (ii) Euroclear Bank and Euroclear Nominees are authorised to credit its interests in the Migrating Shares (i.e. the Belgian Law Rights representing the Migrating Shares to which such Holder was entitled) to the account of the CREST Nominee (CIN (Belgium) Limited) in the Euroclear System, as nominee and for the benefit of the CREST Depository (or the account of such other nominee(s) of the CREST Depository as it may determine);
  - (iii) Euroclear Bank and Euroclear Nominees are authorised to take any action necessary or desirable to enable the CREST Depository to hold the interests in the Migrating Shares referred to in sub-paragraph (ii) above on trust pursuant to the terms of the CREST Deed Poll or otherwise and for the benefit of the holders of the CDIs; and
  - (iv) Euroclear Bank and Euroclear Nominees are authorised to take any action necessary or desirable to enable the issuance of CDIs by the CREST Depository to the relevant Holders of the Migrating Shares, including any action necessary or desirable in order to authorise Euroclear Bank, Euroclear Nominees, the CREST Nominee and/or any other relevant entity to instruct the CREST Depository and/or EUI to issue the CDIs to the relevant Holders of the Migrating Shares pursuant to the terms of the CREST Deed Poll or otherwise;
- (d) the Registrar releasing such personal data of the Holder of the Migrating Shares as is required by Euroclear Bank, the CREST Depository and/or EUI to effect the Migration and the issue of the CDIs;
- (e) the attorney or agent appointed pursuant to this Article is empowered to do all or any of the following on behalf of the Holders of the Migrating Shares:
  - (i) procure the issue by the Registrar of such instructions in the Euroclear System or otherwise as are necessary or desirable to give effect to the Migration and the related admission of the Migrating Shares to the Euroclear System referred to in the Circular (including the procedures and processes described in the EB Migration Guide), including but not limited to the issuing by the Registrar of the instructions referred to as MT 540 MKUP and MT 544 instructions in the EB Migration Guide and the EB Services Description in respect of the Migrating Shares and any other instructions as may be deemed necessary or desirable in order for:

- (A) the interests in the Migrating Shares referred to in Article 10A.(c)(ii) to be credited to the account of the CREST Nominee (CIN (Belgium) Limited) in the Euroclear System, as nominee and for the benefit of the CREST Depository (or the account of such other nominee(s) of the CREST Depository as it may determine);
  - (B) Euroclear Bank and/or Euroclear Nominees to be authorised to take any action necessary or desirable to enable the CREST Depository to hold the interests in the Migrating Shares referred to in sub-paragraph (A) above on trust pursuant to the terms of the CREST Deed Poll or otherwise and for the benefit of the holders of the CDIs; and
  - (C) Euroclear Bank and/or Euroclear Nominees to be authorised to take any action necessary or desirable to enable the issuance of CDIs by the CREST Depository to the relevant Holders of the Migrating Shares, including any action necessary or desirable in order to authorise Euroclear Bank, Euroclear Nominees, the CREST Nominee and/or any other relevant entity to instruct the CREST Depository and/or EUI to issue the CDIs to the relevant Holders of the Migrating Shares pursuant to the terms of the CREST Deed Poll or otherwise;
- (ii) withdraw any Participating Securities from CREST and to instruct EUI to do all that is necessary so that the Register of Members shall record such Participating Securities as no longer being in uncertificated form;
  - (iii) execute and deliver a form or forms of transfer or other instrument(s) or instruction(s) of transfer on behalf of the Holders of the Migrating Shares in favour of Euroclear Nominees or such other nominee(s) of Euroclear Bank as it may notify the Company in writing;
  - (iv) execute and deliver such agreements or other documentation, electronic communications and instructions as may be required in connection with the admission of the Migrating Shares to the Euroclear System.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision in these Articles, the Company shall not be obliged to issue any certificates to Euroclear Nominees or such other nominee(s) of Euroclear Bank as it may notify the Company in writing following such transfers.

10B. Notwithstanding anything in these Articles to the contrary and subject to the rules of the applicable central securities depository, the Directors may permit any class of shares to be held, and trades in those shares to be settled, through a Securities Settlement System operated by a central securities depository. Without prejudice to the generality and effectiveness of the foregoing:

- (a) the Directors may make such arrangements or regulations (if any) as they may from time to time in their absolute discretion think fit for the purpose of implementing and/or supplementing the provisions of this Article and the Migration and the facilities and requirements of the Securities Settlement System and such arrangements and regulations (as the case may be) shall have the same effect as if set out in this Article;

- (b) the Directors may utilise the Securities Settlement System to the fullest extent available from time to time in the exercise of the Company's powers or functions under the Acts or these Articles or otherwise in effecting any actions;
  - (c) for the purposes of Article 129(a), any payment in the case of shares held through a Securities Settlement System may be made by means of the Securities Settlement System (subject always to the facilities and requirements of the Securities Settlement System) and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the making of a payment in accordance with the facilities and requirements of the Securities Settlement System concerned shall be a good discharge to the Company;
  - (d) where any class of shares in the capital of the Company is held through a Securities Settlement System and the Company is entitled under any provisions of the Acts, or the rules made and practices instituted by the central securities depository or under these Articles, to dispose of, forfeit, enforce a lien or sell or otherwise procure the sale of any such shares, such entitlement (to the extent permitted by the Acts and the rules made and practices instituted by the central securities depository): (A) shall include the right to require the central securities depository of such Securities Settlement System to take such steps as may be necessary to sell or transfer such shares and/or to appoint any person to take such other steps in the name of the central securities depository (or its nominee(s)) as may be required to effect a transfer of such shares and such steps shall be as effective as if they had been taken by the central securities depository (or its nominee(s)); and (B) shall be treated as applying only to such shares held by the central securities depository or its nominee(s) and not to any other shares held by the central securities depository or its nominee(s); and
  - (e) Articles 13, 14, 32, 36 and 37 shall not apply to the Migration.
- 10C. The Holders of the Migrating Shares agree that neither the Company, the Directors nor the Registrars shall be liable in any way in respect of any loss or damage caused to the Holders of Migrating Shares in connection with:
- (a) any of the actions taken in respect of the Migrating Shares in connection with the Migration and/or the matters in connection with the Migration referred to in the Circular (including the procedures and processes described in the EB Migration Guide), whether pursuant to the authorities granted by the Holders of the Migrating Shares pursuant to this Article, the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 5 February 2021 (or any adjournment thereof) or otherwise; and/or
  - (b) any failures and/or errors in the systems, processes or procedures of Euroclear Bank and/or EUI which adversely affect the implementation of the Migration and/or the matters in connection with the Migration referred to in the Circular (including the procedures and processes described in the EB Migration Guide).
- 10D. For the purposes of Articles 10A., 10B and 10C. **"Belgian Law Rights"**, **"CDI"**, **"CREST"**, **"CREST Deed Poll"**, **"CREST Nominee"**, **"CREST Depository"**, **"EB Migration Guide"**, **"EB Services Description"**, **"EUI"**, **"Euroclear System"**, **"Live Date"**, **"Migrating Shares"**, **"Migration"**, **"Participating Securities"** and **"Registrars"** have the meanings given to those terms in the circular issued by the Company to its shareholders dated 6 January 2021 (being the **"Circular"**).

11. The Company may exercise the powers conferred by the Acts of paying commissions to persons subscribing or procuring subscriptions for shares of the Company or agreeing so to do, whether absolutely or conditionally, and any such commission may be satisfied by the payment of cash or the allotment of fully or partly paid shares of the Company, or partly in the one way and partly in the other: provided that the rate per cent, or the amount of the commission paid or agreed to be paid shall be disclosed in the manner required by the Acts and shall not exceed 10 per cent of the price at which the shares in respect whereof the commission is paid are issued or an amount equivalent thereto. The Company may also, on any issue of shares pay such brokerage as may be lawful.
12.
  - (a) Except as required by law or as provided for by paragraph (b) below, no person shall be recognised by the Company as holding any share upon any trust, and the Company shall not be bound by or compelled in any way to recognise (even when having notice thereof) any quotable, contingent, future or partial interest in any share or any interest in any fraction or part of a share or (except only as by these Articles or by law otherwise provided) any other rights in respect of any share except an absolute right to the entirety thereof in the registered holder.
  - (b) Where shares are registered in the name of a nominee of a central securities depository acting in its capacity as operator of a Securities Settlement System (including, without limitation, where shares are held by Euroclear Nominees as nominee of Euroclear Bank) all rights attaching to such shares may be exercised on the instructions of the central securities depository and the Company shall have no liability to the nominee where its acts in response to such instructions.
  - (c) Without prejudice to the foregoing the Directors may by notice in writing addressed and sent to or left with any member require such member to inform the Company in writing not more than 14 days after service of the notice of the capacity in which such member holds any share of the Company and if such member holds any share otherwise than as beneficial owner to furnish in writing so far as it is within the member's knowledge, the name and address of the person on whose behalf the member holds such share or, if the name or address of such person is not forthcoming, such particulars as will enable or assist in the identification of such person, and the nature of the interest of such person in such share and the Directors may by like notice or by a series of like notices require any person so named or identified to furnish information to the Company of the kind required to be furnished pursuant to the notice served on the member.
  - (d) Where a notice is given pursuant to the previous paragraph or pursuant to section 1062 or section 1110B of the Act and the member or person to whom such notice is given fails to furnish the Company with the information required by the notice in the time therein specified, the member shall not be entitled to attend meetings of the Company nor to exercise the voting rights attached to such share, and, if the member holds 0.25% or more of the issued Ordinary Shares of the Company, the Directors shall be entitled to withhold payment of any dividend payable on such shares (without liability to pay interest on the amount(s) withheld) and the member shall not be entitled to transfer such shares except by sale through a Stock Exchange to a bona fide unconnected third party. Sanctions imposed on a member pursuant to the foregoing shall cease to apply after not more than seven days from the earlier of:

- (i) receipt by the Company of notice that the member has sold the shares to an unconnected third party in the manner described above; or
  - (ii) due compliance, to the satisfaction of the Company, with the notice served under (b) above.
- (e) In relation to any share which is held in uncertificated form, the prohibition of transfers in paragraph (c) above shall not be effective to the extent that it is inconsistent with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations, the transfer of title to such shares by means of a relevant system or the rules and requirements of the relevant system.
- (f) If and to the extent that the prohibition in paragraph (c) above is not or may not be effective in relation to shares which are held in uncertificated form, the Directors may take such further steps (including requiring that the shares are converted into certificated form) as the Directors shall think fit for giving effect so far as practicable to the prohibition in paragraph (c) above provided that such steps (i) are acceptable to the Operator of the relevant system ((ii) are not inconsistent with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations, the transfer generally of title to such shares by means of the relevant system or the rules and requirements of the relevant system and (iii) do not have as their object or effect the imposition of a more onerous restriction on transfer than would apply to shares held in certificated form.
- (g) Unless otherwise required by applicable law, where a notice is served on the holder of a share pursuant to paragraph (c) above and such holder is a central securities depository (or its nominee(s)) acting in its capacity as operator of a securities settlement system:
  - (i) the obligations of the central securities depository (or its nominee(s)) as a holder of shares pursuant to this Article shall be limited to disclosing to the Company in accordance with this Article such information relating to the ownership of or interests in the share concerned as has been recorded by it pursuant to the rules made and practices instituted by the central securities depository, provided that nothing in this Article shall in any other way restrict the powers of the Directors under this Article; and
  - (ii) any restrictions arising under paragraph (d) above shall be treated as applying only to such number of shares held by the central securities depository or its nominee(s) and in respect of which the information required by the notice has not been furnished and not to any other shares held by the central securities depository or its nominee(s).
- 13. (a) Other than in relation to any shares which are held or to be held in uncertificated form or in the name of a central securities depository or its nominee(s) (in respect of which no share certificate shall be issued), every person whose name is entered as a member in the Register of Members shall be entitled without payment to one certificate issued in accordance with Article 121 of these Articles for all his shares of each class and, if he transfers part of his holding, to one certificate for the balance of such holding; and upon payment of such reasonable sum as may be determined by the Directors from time to time in respect of each certificate after the first, he shall also be entitled to several certificates, each for one or more of his shares. Where required in accordance with the foregoing sentence, a certificate for shares shall be issued within two months after allotment or, in the case of a transfer within two months after the

lodgment with the Company of the transfer of the shares, unless the conditions of issue of such shares otherwise provide. The Company shall not be bound to register more than four persons as the joint holders of any share (except in the case of executors or trustees of a deceased member) and, in the case of a share held jointly by several persons, the Company shall not be bound to issue more than one certificate therefor and delivery of a certificate for a share to one of several joint holders shall be sufficient delivery to all. The obligation on the Company to issue a new certificate under this Article 13 or to issue a new, balance, exchange or replacement certificate under any other provisions of these Articles shall be subject always to the provisions of the CSD Regulation and any other applicable law.

- (b) Conversion of shares from certificated form into uncertificated form and vice versa shall be effected in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations and, subject thereto, in such manner as the Directors may determine.
  - (c) Where a member transfers part only of the shares comprised in a share certificate (or requests in the manner required by the Uncertificated Securities Regulations that part only of the shares comprised in a share certificate be converted from certificated to uncertificated form) the old certificate shall be cancelled and, subject to applicable law, a new certificate for the balance of such shares shall be issued in lieu without charge.
  - (d) Where any share is converted from uncertificated to certificated form the Company shall, subject to applicable law, issue a certificate for that share (subject to the foregoing provisions of this Article) within two months after the date on which the Company received the relevant Operator-instruction.
14. (a) If a share certificate shall be damaged or defaced or alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed, subject to applicable law, a new certificate representing the same shares may be issued to the holder upon request subject to delivery up of the old certificate or (if alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed) compliance with such conditions as to evidence and indemnity and the payment of any exceptional out-of-pocket expenses of the Company in connection with the request as the Company may require.
- (b) In the case of shares held jointly by separate persons any such request may be made by any one of the joint holders.

#### **LIEN**

15. The Company shall have a first and paramount lien on every share (not being a fully paid share) registered in the name of any member whether solely or jointly with others for all moneys due or presently to become due to the Company on foot of a call or at a fixed time, in respect of the share. The Company's lien on a share shall extend to all dividends or other moneys payable thereon or in respect thereof. The Directors may at any time declare any share to be exempt, wholly or partially, from the provisions of this Article.
16. For the purpose of enforcing such lien the Directors may sell all or any of the shares subject thereto at such time and in such manner as they think fit, but no sale shall be made until such time as the moneys in respect of which such lien exists, or some part thereof, are or is presently payable and until a notice in writing stating the amount due and demanding payment thereof and giving notice of intention to sell in default shall

have been served in such manner as the Directors shall think fit on such member or the person (if any) entitled by transmission to the shares and default in payment shall have been made by him for seven days after the service of such notice.

17. The net proceeds of such sale after payment of the costs of such sale shall be applied in or towards payment or satisfaction of the amount in respect whereof the lien exists so far as the same is then payable and any residue shall, upon surrender to the Company for cancellation of the certificate for the shares sold if the shares be held in certificated form a subject to a like lien for sums not presently payable as existed upon the shares prior to the sale, be paid to the person entitled to the shares at the time of the sale.
18. For the purpose of giving effect to any such sale the Directors may by resolution or instrument under seal authorise some person in the name and on behalf of the member or the person (if any) entitled by transmission to the shares to execute a transfer of the shares sold to the purchaser. The purchaser's name shall be entered in the Register of Members as the holder of the shares and the purchaser shall not be bound to see the regularity or validity of, or be affected by any irregularity or invalidity in, the proceedings or be bound to see to the application of the purchase money, and after his name has been entered in the Register of Members the validity of the sale shall not be impeached by any person aggrieved by the sale shall be in damages only and against the Company exclusively.

#### **CALLS ON SHARES**

19. The Directors may, subject to the provisions of these Articles and to any conditions of allotment, from time to time make such calls upon the members in respect of all moneys unpaid on their shares (whether on account of the nominal amount of the shares or, where permitted, by way of premium) as they think fit, and each member shall subject to receiving at least 14 days' notice specifying the time or times and place of payment) be liable to pay the amount of every call so made upon him to the Company and at the time or times and place so appointed by the Directors. A call may be made payable by instalments. A call may be revoked or postponed as the Directors may determine. A call shall be deemed to have been made at the time when the resolution of the Directors authorising such call was passed.
20. Where there is more than one holder of a share they shall be jointly and severally liable to pay all calls in respect thereof.
21. If on the day appointed for payment thereof a call payable in respect of a share shall not have been paid, the person from whom the amount of the call is due shall pay interest on such amount from the day appointed for payment thereof to the time of actual payment at the rate fixed by the terms of the allotment or as the Directors shall determine, but the Directors may waive payment of such interest wholly or in part.
22. On the trial or hearing of any action for the recovery of any money due for any call it shall be sufficient to prove that the name of the member sued is entered in the Register of Members as the holder, or one of the holders, of the shares in respect of which such debt accrued, that the resolution making the call is duly recorded in the minute book, and that notice of such call was duly given to the member sued, in pursuance of these presents, and it shall not be necessary to prove the appointment of the Directors who made such call nor any other matters whatsoever, but the proof of the matters aforesaid shall be conclusive evidence of the debt.

23. Any sum which by the terms of issue of a share is made payable upon allotment or at any fixed date, whether on account of the nominal amount of the share or the premium (if any) on such share shall, for all purposes of these Articles, be deemed to be a call duly made and payable on the date appointed for payment and, in case of non-payment, all the relevant provisions of these Articles as to payment of interest, forfeiture and the like shall apply as if such sum were a call duly made and notified.
24. Subject to the terms of allotment the Directors may on the issue of shares make different arrangements as between holders of such shares as respects the amounts of calls to be paid and the time for payment of such calls on their shares.
25. The Directors may, if they think fit, receive from any member willing to advance the same, all or any part of the moneys due upon his shares beyond the sums actually called up thereon, and such payment in advance of a call shall extinguish pro tanto the liability upon the shares in respect of which such call is made and upon all or any of the moneys so advanced the Directors may (until and to the extent that the same would, but for such advance, become presently payable) pay or allow such interest (not exceeding, without the consent of the Company by Ordinary Resolution, 12 per cent, per annum) as may be agreed between them and such member, but any sum paid in excess of the amount for the time being called up shall not be included or taken into account in ascertaining the amount of the dividend payable on the shares in respect of which such advance has been made.

#### **FORFEITURE OF SHARES**

26. If a member fails to pay any call or instalment of a call on the day appointed for payment thereof, the Directors may at any time thereafter during such time as any part of such call or instalment remains unpaid serve a notice on such member requiring him to pay so much of such call or instalment as remains unpaid together with any interest which may have accrued.
27. The notice shall name a further day (not earlier than seven days from the date of service thereof) on or before which, and the place at which such payment is to be made and shall state that in the event of non-payment at or before the time and at the place appointed the shares on which the call was made will be liable to be forfeited.
28. If the requirements of any such notice as aforesaid are not complied with, any share in respect of which such notice has been given may at any time thereafter, before payment of all calls and interest due in respect thereof has been made, be forfeited by a resolution of the Directors to that effect. A forfeiture of shares shall include all dividends declared in respect of the forfeited share and not actually paid before the forfeiture.
29. A forfeited share may be sold, re-issued, or otherwise disposed of, either to the person who was before forfeiture the holder thereof or entitled thereto or to any other person upon such terms and in such manner as the Directors shall think fit and whether with or without all or any part of the amount previously paid on the share being credited as paid, and at any time before such sale, re-issue or disposal the forfeiture may be cancelled on such terms as the Directors think fit. The Directors may if necessary, authorise some person to transfer in manner hereinbefore provided a forfeited share to any other person.
30. A member whose share has been forfeited shall cease to be a member in respect of the forfeited share, but shall, notwithstanding the forfeiture, remain liable to pay to the Company all calls made and not paid on such share at the time of forfeiture with interest

thereon to the date of payment at such rate not exceeding 12 per cent. per annum as the Directors shall think fit, in the same manner in all respects as if the share had not been forfeited and to satisfy all the claims and demands (if any) which the Company might have enforced in respect of the share at the time of forfeiture without any deduction or allowance for the value of the share at the time of forfeiture.

31. A statutory declaration in writing that the declarant is a Director or the Secretary of the Company and that a share has been duly forfeited on a date stated in the declaration shall be conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share; such declaration shall (subject to the execution of a transfer if the same be required) constitute a good title to the share and the new holder of the share shall not be bound to see to the application of the consideration (if any) nor shall his title to the share be affected by any omission, irregularity or invalidity in or relating to or connected with the proceedings in reference to the forfeiture, sale, re-issue or disposal of the share.

### **TRANSFER OF SHARES**

32. (a) Subject to such of the restrictions of these Articles and to such of the conditions of issue as may be applicable, transfers of shares shall be effected by instrument of transfer in any usual form or in any other manner which the Directors may approve. The Directors may also permit title to any shares in the Company to be transferred without a written instrument where permitted by the Acts subject to compliance with the requirements imposed under the relevant provisions of the Acts and any additional requirements which the Directors may approve
- (b) The instrument of transfer of any share shall be executed by or on behalf of the transferor or alternatively for and on behalf of the transferor by the Secretary (or such other person as may be nominated by the Secretary for this purpose) on behalf of the Company, and the Company, the Secretary (or relevant nominee) shall be deemed to have been irrevocably appointed agent for the transferor of such share or shares with full power to execute, complete and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the transferor of such share or shares all such transfers of shares held by the Holders in the share capital of the Company. An instrument of transfer need not be executed by the transferee save that if the share concerned (or one or more of the shares concerned) is not fully paid, the instrument shall be executed by or on behalf of the transferor and transferee. The transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the share until the name of the transferee is entered in the Register of Members in respect thereof.
- (c) Title to any share which is held in uncertificated form shall be transferred by means of the relevant system, in accordance with the Uncertificated Securities Regulations and, accordingly, no provision of these Articles which requires a written instrument of transfer and the lodging of a share certificate with the Company shall apply to such a transfer. The Directors may make such arrangements as they think fit in relation to evidencing of title to and transfer of shares held in uncertificated form subject always to the Uncertificated Securities Regulations.
- (d) The Company, at its absolute discretion and insofar as the Acts or any other applicable law permits, may, or may procure that a subsidiary of the Company shall, pay Irish stamp duty arising on a transfer of shares on behalf of the transferee of such shares of the Company. If stamp duty resulting from the

transfer of shares in the Company which would otherwise be payable by the transferee is paid by the Company or any subsidiary of the Company on behalf of the transferee, then in those circumstances, the Company shall, on its behalf or on behalf of its subsidiary (as the case may be), be entitled to (i) seek reimbursement of the stamp duty from the transferee, (ii) set-off the stamp duty against any dividends payable to the transferee of those shares and (iii) to claim a first and permanent lien on the shares on which stamp duty has been paid by the Company or its subsidiary for the amount of stamp duty paid.

33. The transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the share until the name of the transferee is entered in the Register of Members in respect thereof.
34. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, the Directors may decline to register any transfer of shares:—
  - (a) upon which the Company has a lien and in the case of shares not fully paid up may refuse to register a transfer to any transferee of whom they do not approve without assigning any reason for such refusal; or
  - (b) to an infant or a person declared by an order of a court or other competent authority to be mentally disordered and incapable for the time being of dealing with his affairs.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) above, a transfer of title to shares held in uncertificated form in accordance with an Operator-instruction shall be registered where such registration is required under the terms of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations. No transfer of title to shares held in uncertificated form shall be registered except in accordance with the provisions of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations.
35. The Directors may decline to register a renunciation of an allotment or transfer of shares (whether fully paid or not) in favour of more than four persons jointly.
36. The Directors may decline to recognise any instrument of transfer of shares held in certificated form unless the instrument of transfer is in respect of only one class of share and is lodged at the Office or such other place as the Directors may appoint accompanied by the relevant share certificate(s) (if any) and such other evidence as the Directors may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer (and, if the instrument of transfer is executed by some other person on his behalf, the authority of that person so to do).
37. If the Directors decline to register a transfer of any shares they shall, within two months after the date on which the transfer was lodged with the Company or on which the relevant Operator-instruction was received by the Company, as the case may be, send to the transferee notice of the refusal.
38. The registration of transfers may be suspended at such times and for such periods (not exceeding thirty days in any year) as the Directors may from time to time determine but only with the prior consent of the Operator, if any shares shall be held in uncertificated form.
39. All instruments of transfer which shall be registered shall be retained by the Company subject always as provided in Article 159 hereof.

40. No fee will be charged by the Company in respect of the registration of any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any shares or otherwise for making any entry in the Register of Members affecting the title to any shares.
41. Nothing in these Articles shall preclude the Directors from recognising a renunciation of the allotment of any shares by the allottee in favour of some other person or in favour of not more than four persons jointly.

### **TRANSMISSION OF SHARES**

42. In the case of the death of a member, the survivors or survivor where the deceased was a joint holder, and the legal personal representatives of the deceased where he was a sole or only surviving joint holder, shall be the only persons recognised by the Company as having any title to his interest in the shares, but nothing in this Article shall release the estate of a deceased holder (whether sole or joint) from any liability in respect of any share held by him.
43. Any person becoming entitled to a share in consequence of the death bankruptcy or insolvency of a member or otherwise by operation of law may, upon producing such evidence of title as may from time to time be properly required by the Directors and subject as hereinafter provided, elect either to be registered himself as the holder of the share upon giving notice in writing to the Company of such desire or transfer such shares to some other person. All the limitations, restrictions and provisions of these Articles relating to the right to transfer and the registration of transfers of shares shall be applicable to any such notice or transfer as aforesaid as if the said notice or transfer were a transfer executed by the said member.
44. A person becoming entitled to a share by transmission shall be entitled to receive and give a discharge for any dividends or other moneys payable on or in respect of the share, but he shall not be entitled to receive notices of, or to attend or vote at meetings of the Company or (save as aforesaid) to exercise any of the rights or privileges of a member in respect of the share, unless and until he shall be entered in the Register of Members as the holder thereof; however, the Directors may at any time give notice requiring any person to elect either to be registered himself or to transfer the share and, if the notice is not complied with within 90 days, the Directors may thereafter withhold payment of all dividends, or other moneys payable in respect of the share until the requirements of the notice have been complied with.

### **STOCK**

45. The Company may by Ordinary Resolution convert any paid up shares into stock, and re-convert any stock into paid-up shares of any denomination.
46. The holders of stock may transfer the same or any part thereof in the same manner and subject to the same regulations as and subject to which the shares from which the stock arose might previously to conversion have been transferred or as near thereto as circumstances will admit, but the Directors may from time to time fix the minimum amount of stock transferable, provided that such minimum shall not exceed the nominal amount of the shares from which the stock arose.
47. The holders of stock shall, according to the amount of the stock held by them have the same rights, privileges and advantages as regards dividends, participation in assets on a winding up, voting at meetings and other matters as if they held the shares from which the stock arose, but no such privilege or advantage (except participation in dividends and profits of the Company and in the assets on a winding up) shall be

conferred by an amount of stock which would not, if existing in shares, have conferred such privilege or advantage.

48. All such provisions of these Articles as are applicable to paid up shares shall apply to stock, and in all such provisions the words "share" and "member" shall include "stock" and "stockholder" respectively.

#### **INCREASE OF CAPITAL**

49. The Company may from time to time by Ordinary Resolution increase its share capital by such sum, to be divided into shares of such amounts and denominated in such currency or currencies, as the resolution shall prescribe.
50. The new shares shall be issued upon such terms and conditions and with such rights and privileges annexed thereto as the General Meeting resolving upon the creation thereof shall direct, and if no direction be given as the Directors shall determine and in particular such shares may be issued with a preferential or qualified right to dividends and in the distribution of assets of the Company and with a special, or without any, right of voting.
51. Except so far as otherwise provided by the conditions of issue or by these Articles any capital raised by the issue of new shares shall be considered part of the pre-existing capital and shall be subject to the provisions herein contained with reference to allotments, the payment of calls and instalments, transfer and transmission, forfeiture, lien and otherwise.

#### **ALTERATION OF CAPITAL**

52. The Company from time to time may by Ordinary Resolution:
- (a) consolidate and divide all or any of its share capital into shares of larger amount than its existing shares;
  - (b) sub-divide its shares, or any of them, into shares of smaller amount so however that in the sub-division the proportion between the amount paid and the amount, if any, unpaid on each reduced share shall be the same as it was in the case of the share from which the reduced share is derived, and so that the resolution whereby the share is sub-divided may determine that, as between the holders of the shares resulting from such sub-division, one or more of the shares may have such preferred or other special rights over, or may have such deferred rights, or be subject to such restrictions as compared with the others as the Company has power to attach to any unissued or new shares;
  - (c) cancel shares which, at the date of the passing of the resolution in that behalf, have not been taken or agreed to be taken by any person, and diminish the amount of its share capital by the amount of the shares so cancelled,

and may by Special Resolution reduce its share capital and any undenominated capital and any capital redemption reserve fund and any share premium account in any manner authorised by the Acts and permitted by applicable law or regulation. The Company may also, subject to the provisions of the Acts and any other applicable law or regulation, purchase its own shares including redeemable shares. Unless otherwise provided by the terms of issue and without prejudice to the rights attached to any preference share to participate in any return of capital, the rights, privileges, limitations and restrictions attached to any preference share shall be deemed not to be varied,

altered or abrogated by a reduction in any share capital ranking as regards participation in the profits and assets of the Company pari passu with or after that preference share. Subject to the provisions of these Articles, whenever as a result of a consolidation or subdivision of shares any members would become entitled to fractions of a share, the Directors may deal with such fractions as they shall determine and in particular they may sell, on behalf of those members, the shares representing the fractions for the best price reasonably obtainable to any person and pay the proceeds of sale in due proportion among those members (save that the Directors may in such event determine that amounts of €2.50 or less per member shall not be so distributed but shall be retained for the benefit of the Company), and the Directors may authorise some person to execute an instrument of transfer of the shares to, or in accordance with the directions of, the buyer. The transferee shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase money nor shall his title to the shares be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings in reference to the sale.

### **PURCHASE OF OWN SHARES**

53. (a) Subject to the provisions of the Acts and to the extent permitted thereby, to any rights conferred on the holders of any class of shares and to the following paragraph of this Article, the Company may purchase any of its shares of any class and may cancel any shares so purchased or hold them as treasury shares with liberty to re-issue any such share or shares on such terms and conditions and in such manner as the Directors may from time to time determine.
- (b) The Company shall not be required to select the shares to be purchased on a pro rata basis or in any particular manner as between the holders of shares of the same class or as between the holders of shares of different classes or in accordance with the rights as to dividends or capital attached to any class of shares.
54. [Not used]

### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

55. The Company shall in each year hold a General Meeting as its Annual General Meeting in addition to any other meetings in that year and not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting and that of the next.
56. (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Directors shall determine. All General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.
- (b) Every Annual General Meeting shall be held in Ireland unless either all the members entitled to attend and vote at such meeting consent in writing to its being held elsewhere or the Company makes, at its expense, all necessary arrangements to ensure that members can by technological means participate in any such meeting without leaving the State.
57. The Directors may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting. Extraordinary General Meetings shall also be convened on such requisition, or in default may be convened by such requisitionists, as is provided by the Acts.

### **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

58. Subject to the provisions of the Acts allowing a General Meeting to be called by shorter notice, an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting for the passing of a Special Resolution, shall be called by twenty-one clear days' notice at the least, and any other Extraordinary General Meeting shall also be called by twenty-one clear days' notice at the least except that it may be called by 14 clear days' notice where a Special Resolution reducing the period of notice to 14 clear days has been passed at the immediately preceding Annual General Meeting, or at a General Meeting held since that meeting. Notice shall be given in writing in the manner hereinafter mentioned to all the members, to any other person entitled to such notice under the Act and to the statutory auditors for the time being of the Company.
59. Such notice shall state:-
- (a) the place, the date and time of the meeting;
  - (b) the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting;
  - (c) in the case of a proposed Special Resolution, the text or substance of that proposed Special Resolution;
  - (d) that the meeting is the Annual General Meeting, where such is the case; and
  - (e) in reasonable prominence:
    - (i) that a member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy (or more than one proxy as alternates) to attend, speak and vote in his place;
    - (ii) that a proxy need not be a member of the Company; and
    - (iii) the time by which the proxy must be received at the Office or some other place within the State as is specified in the notice.
60. (a) A General Meeting other than a meeting for the passing of a Special Resolution shall, notwithstanding that it is called by shorter notice than that hereinbefore specified, be deemed to have been duly called if it is so agreed by the statutory auditors and by all the members entitled to attend and vote thereat.
- (b) A resolution may be proposed and passed as a Special Resolution at a meeting of which less than twenty-one clear days' notice has been given if it is so agreed by a majority in number of the members having the right to attend and vote at any such meeting, being a majority together holding not less than ninety per cent in nominal value of the shares giving that right.
- (c) The Directors may determine, in the case of members, that only members whose names are entered on the Register of Members at the close of business on a particular day chosen by the Directors are entitled to receive notice of a General Meeting subject to complying with any minimum periods prescribed by the Acts.
- (d) The Directors may specify in the notice of a General Meeting a time by which a person's name shall be entered on the Register of Members in order for that person to have the right to attend or vote at the General Meeting.

61. Where, by any provisions contained in the Acts, extended notice is required of a resolution, the resolution shall not be effective unless (except where the Directors of the Company have resolved to submit it) notice of the intention to move it has been given to the Company not less than twenty eight days (or such shorter period as the Act permits) before the meeting at which it is moved, and the Company shall give to the members notice of any such resolutions as required by and in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.
62. The accidental omission to give notice to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at any General Meeting.
63. If the Board considers that it is impracticable or unreasonable to hold a general meeting on the date or at the time or place stated in the notice calling the meeting, it may postpone or move the meeting (or do both). The Board shall take reasonable steps to ensure that notice of the date, time and place of the rearranged meeting is given to any member trying to attend the meeting at the original time and place. Notice of the date, time and place of the rearranged meeting shall, if practicable, also be placed in at least two national newspapers published in Ireland. Notice of the business to be transacted at such rearranged meeting shall not be required. If a meeting is rearranged in this way, appointments of proxy are valid if they are received as required by these Articles not later than the latest time approved by the Directors (subject to the requirements of the Acts) and for the purpose of calculating this period, the Board can decide in their absolute discretion, not to take account of any part of a day that is not a working day. The Board may also postpone or move the rearranged meeting (or do both) under this Article.

#### **PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

64. All business shall be deemed special that is transacted at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company or an Annual General Meeting of the Company, with the exception of:
  - (a) the consideration of the Company's statutory financial statements and the report of the directors and the report of the statutory auditors on those statements and that report;
  - (b) the review by the members of the Company's affairs;
  - (c) the declaration of a dividend (if any) of an amount not exceeding the amount recommended by the Directors;
  - (d) the election of Directors in the place of those retiring (whether by rotation or otherwise);
  - (e) re-appointing statutory auditors; and
  - (g) the authorisation of the directors to approve the remuneration of the statutory auditors.
65. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Two members present in person and entitled to vote at such meeting, each being a member or a proxy for a member, shall be a quorum.

66. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting (or such longer period as the Chairman may think fit to allow) a quorum is not present the meeting, if convened on the requisition of or by members, shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Chairman may determine and, if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes from the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at such meeting shall be a quorum, but so that no less than two individuals shall constitute the quorum.
67. Without prejudice to any other powers which he may exercise, the Chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, and shall, if so directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place. However, without prejudice to any other power which he may have under these Articles or at common law, the Chairman may, without the need for the consent of the meeting, interrupt or adjourn any meeting from time to time and from place to place or for an indefinite period if he is of the opinion that it has become necessary to do so in order to secure the proper and orderly conduct of the meeting or to give all person entitled to do so a reasonable opportunity of attending, speaking and voting at the meeting or to ensure that the business of the meeting is properly disposed of. Whenever a meeting is adjourned for fourteen days or more, seven clear days' notice at the least, specifying the place, the day and the time of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting, but it shall not be necessary to specify in such notice the nature of the business to be transacted at the adjourned meeting. Save as aforesaid, no member shall be entitled to any notice of an adjournment. No business shall be transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
68. The Chairman, or in his absence any Deputy Chairman or if neither is present some other Director nominated by the Directors shall preside at every General Meeting, but if at any meeting neither the Chairman nor any Deputy Chairman nor such other Director be present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the same, or if, being present, none of them be willing to act as Chairman, the Directors present shall choose some Director present to be Chairman, or if no Director be present, or if all the Directors present decline to take the chair, the members present and entitled to vote at such meeting shall choose some member present to be Chairman.
69. The Board may direct that any person wishing to attend any meeting should provide such evidence of identity and submit to such searches or other security arrangements or restrictions as the Board shall consider appropriate in the circumstances and shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to refuse entry to any meeting to any person who fails to provide such evidence of identity or to submit to such searches or to otherwise comply with such security arrangements or restrictions. The Chairman shall take such action or give directions as he thinks fit to promote the orderly conduct of the business of the meeting as laid down in the notice of the meeting and to ensure the security of the meeting and the safety of the people attending the meeting. The Chairman's decision on matters of procedure or arising incidentally from the business of the meeting shall be final as shall be his determination as to whether any matter is of such a nature.
70. The Board may, in accordance with this Article, make arrangements for members and proxies who are entitled to attend and participate in a general meeting, but who cannot be seated in the main meeting room where the Chairman will be, to attend and take part in a general meeting in an overflow room or rooms. Any overflow room will have appropriate links to the main room and will enable audio-visual communication between the meeting rooms throughout the meeting. The Board will decide how to

divide members and proxies between the main room and the overflow room. If an overflow room is used, the meeting will be treated as being held and taking place in the main meeting room and the meeting will consist of all the members and proxies who are attending both in the main meeting room and the overflow room. Details of any arrangement for overflow rooms will be set out in the notice of the meeting but failure to do so will not invalidate the meeting.

71. If an amendment to any resolution under consideration is proposed but is ruled out of order by the Chairman of the meeting in good faith, any error in such ruling shall not invalidate the proceedings on the original resolution. In the case of a resolution duly proposed as a Special Resolution, no amendment to it (other than an amendment to correct a patent error) may in any event be considered or voted on. In the case of a resolution duly proposed as an Ordinary Resolution no amendment to it (other than an amendment to correct a patent error) may be considered or voted on unless either at least 48 hours prior to the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which such Ordinary Resolution is to be proposed, notice in writing of the terms of the amendment and intention to move the same has been lodged at the Office or received in electronic form at the electronic address at which the Company has or is deemed to have agreed to have receive it or the Chairman of the meeting in his absolute discretion decides that it may be considered or voted on.
72. Save as otherwise herein expressly provided, at any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless, before or upon the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a poll is demanded in accordance with the provisions hereinafter contained. Unless a poll be so demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of proceedings of the Company shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.
- 73.
- (a) A poll may be demanded on any question by the Chairman, or:
  - (b) A poll may also be demanded by any member on a Special Resolution authorising an off-market purchase of its own shares by the Company under Section 1075 of the Act, or:
  - (c) A poll may also be demanded on any question other than the election of the Chairman or of adjournment of the meeting;—
    - (i) by at least three (3) members present in person or by proxy, or
    - (ii) by a member or members representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting, or
    - (iii) by a member or members holding shares in the Company conferring a right to vote at the meeting, being shares on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right.

- (d) The demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which a poll has been demanded.
- (e) The demand for a poll may be withdrawn before the poll is taken, and a demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- (f) The instrument appointing a proxy to vote at a meeting shall be deemed also to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll, and for the purposes of this Article a demand by a person as proxy for a member shall be the same as a demand by the member.
- (g) A poll on the election of the Chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith. A poll on any other question shall be taken either immediately or at such time (not being more than thirty days from the date of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the poll was demanded) and place as the Chairman shall direct and shall be taken in such manner (including the use of ballot or voting papers) as the Chairman shall direct. The Chairman may appoint scrutineers who need not be members. The result of a poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded. No notice need be given of a poll not taken forthwith if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In any other case at least seven (7) clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
- (h) If any vote shall be counted which ought not to have been counted or might have been rejected or any vote shall not be counted which ought to have been counted, the error shall not vitiate the result of the voting unless it be pointed out at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote is given and not in that case unless it shall in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting be of sufficient magnitude to vitiate the result of the voting. The decision of the chairman of the meeting on such matters shall be final and conclusive.
- (i) On a poll a member entitled to more than one vote need not, if he votes, use all his votes or cast all the votes he uses in the same way.

#### **VOTES OF MEMBERS**

74. Subject to any special rights or restrictions as to voting attached to any share or class of shares, on a show of hands every member who is present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote shall have one vote, so, however, that no individual shall have more than one vote and, subject to Article 87, upon a poll every member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for each share of which he is the holder. Subject to the Acts and to such requirements and restrictions as the Directors may, in accordance with the Acts, specify, the Company at its discretion may provide for participation and voting in a general meeting by electronic means. Voting may also be undertaken by way of such electronic devices as are for the time being and from time to time approved

by the Directors in their absolute discretion, and Articles 74 to 83A shall be interpreted accordingly.

75. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a further or casting vote.
76. A member who is not *sui juris* may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his committee, guardian, receiver, *curator bonis* or other person in the nature of a committee, guardian, receiver or *curator bonis* appointed by a court, and such committee, guardian, receiver, *curator bonis* or other person may on a poll vote by proxy, provided that such evidence as the Directors may require of the authority of the person claiming to vote shall have been deposited at the Office not later than the latest time approved by the Directors for the receipt of proxy appointments (subject to the requirements of the Acts) in respect of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which such person claims to vote.
77. In the case of joint holders of a share, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders, and for this purpose seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names stand in the Register of Members in respect of the joint holding.
78. No member shall be entitled to vote, either personally or by proxy, at any General Meeting or to exercise any privilege as a member unless all calls or other sums presently payable by him in respect of shares in the Company have been paid.
79. Votes may be given either personally or by proxy.
80. No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is given or tendered, and every vote not disallowed at such meeting shall be valid for all purposes. Any such objection made in due time shall be referred to the Chairman of the meeting, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
81. The appointment of a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointor or of his attorney duly authorised in writing or, if the appointer is a corporation, either under its common seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney so authorised. The appointment of a proxy in electronic form shall only be effective in such manner as the Directors may approve.
82. Any person, whether a member of the Company or not, may be appointed to act as a proxy. A member may appoint more than one proxy but only one such may attend, speak and vote at a General Meeting provided, however, that:
  - (a) a member may appoint more than one proxy provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by it; and
  - (b) a member acting as an intermediary on behalf of a client in relation to shares may appoint that client or any third party designated by that client as a proxy in relation to those shares,

subject to such requirements and restrictions as the Directors may from time to time specify. Receipt of an appointment of proxy in respect of a General Meeting shall not preclude a member from attending the General Meeting or any adjournment thereof. The appointment shall be valid, unless the contrary is stated therein, as well for any

adjournment of the meeting as for the meeting to which it relates.

83. (a) Where the appointment of a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is executed, or a copy of such authority certified notarially or in some other way approved by the Directors is to be received by the Company in physical form, it shall be deposited at the Office, or at such other place or one of such other places (if any) as may be specified for that purpose in or by way of note to the notice convening the meeting or any form of proxy sent out by the Company in relation to the meeting, not later than the latest time approved by the Directors (subject to the requirements of the Acts), and in default shall not be treated as valid;
- (b) Subject to the Act, the Board may accept the appointment of a proxy received by electronic means on such terms and subject to such conditions as it considers fit. For the purposes of these Articles, the place to which the appointment of proxy should be delivered by the member shall be such number, address (including any number or address used for the purpose of electronic communication) or identification number of a member as is notified by the Directors to the members whether by way of note to the notice convening the meeting or any invitation to appoint a proxy issued by or on behalf of the Company or otherwise. The Directors may prescribe the method of determining the time at which any such appointment of a proxy is to be treated as received by the Company. The Directors may treat any such appointment which purports to be or is expressed to be sent on behalf of a member as sufficient evidence of the authority of the person sending that instruction to send it on behalf of that member.
- (c) When two or more valid but differing appointments of proxy are received in respect of the same shares for use at the same meeting, the one bearing the later date shall be treated as replacing and revoking the other; if the appointments are undated the one last received shall be treated as valid and if the Company is unable to determine which was the last received, none shall be treated as valid.
- (d) The Directors will have the right, subject the Act, to treat a proxy as valid notwithstanding any deficiency under these Articles.
- 83A. Without limiting the foregoing, in relation to any shares which are deposited in a central securities depository, the Directors may from time to time:
- (a) permit appointments of a proxy to be made by means of an electronic communication (that is, through the use of a secured mechanism to exchange electronic messages in such form and subject to such terms and conditions as may from time to time be prescribed by the Directors (subject always to the facilities and requirements of the operator of the relevant Securities Settlement System concerned)); and may in a similar manner permit supplements to, or amendments or revocations of, any such proxy instruction to be made by like means. The Directors may in addition prescribe the method of determining the time at which any such proxy instruction (and/or other message, instruction or notification) is to be treated as received by the Company or such central securities depository. The Directors may treat any such proxy instruction which purports to be or is expressed to be sent on behalf of a holder of a share as sufficient evidence of the authority of the person sending that instruction to send it on behalf of that holder;

- (b) agree with the central securities depository for such other proxy arrangements to operate, including an arrangement where the Chairman of all General Meetings shall, unless otherwise directed, be the proxy for all General Meetings in respect of all shares deposited in such central securities depository on the basis that such Chairman shall only vote as proxy in accordance with such instructions as the central securities depository may give; and
  - (c) agree with the central securities depository that where shares have been deposited in another central securities depository that proxy instructions may be given via the systems of that other central securities depository to the exclusion of the first central securities depository.
84. The appointment of a proxy shall be in writing in any usual form or in any other form which the Directors may approve (subject to the requirements of the Act) and shall be executed by or on behalf of the appointor. The signature on such appointment need not be witnessed. The appointment of a proxy in electronic form shall only be effective in such manner as the Directors may approve.
85. The Directors may at the expense of the Company send, by post or otherwise, to the members appointments of proxy (with or without stamped envelopes for their return) for use at any General Meeting or at any Class Meeting, either in blank or nominating any one or more of the Directors or any other persons in the alternative. If for the purpose of any meeting invitations to appoint as proxy a person or one of a number of persons specified in the invitations are issued at the expense of the Company, such invitations shall be issued to all (and not to some only) of the members entitled to be sent a notice of the meeting and to vote thereat by proxy but the accidental omission to issue such invitations to, or the non-receipt of such invitation by, any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at any such meeting.
86. A vote given in accordance with the terms of an appointment of proxy or a resolution authorising a representative to act on behalf of a body corporate shall be valid notwithstanding the death or mental disorder of the principal, or the revocation of the appointment of proxy or of the authority under which the appointment of proxy was executed, or the transfer of the share in respect of which the appointment of proxy is given, provided that no intimation in writing of such death, mental disorder, revocation or transfer shall have been received by the Company at the Office before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the appointment of proxy is used.

#### **CORPORATIONS ACTING BY REPRESENTATIVES**

87. Any corporation sole or body corporate which is a member of the Company may by a document executed by or on behalf of such corporation sole or resolution of its directors or other governing body authorise such person or persons as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Company or of any class of members of the Company, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the corporation sole or body corporate which he represents as that corporation sole or body corporate could exercise if it were an individual member of the Company or, where more than one such representative is so authorized, all or any of the rights attached to the shares in respect of which he is so authorised. Where a body corporate appoints more than one representative in relation to a general meeting, each representative must be appointed to exercise the rights attached to different shares held by that body corporate. A Director, the Secretary or some person authorised for the purpose by the Secretary may require the representative to produce a certified copy of the resolution so authorising him or such other evidence of his

authority reasonably satisfactory to them before permitting him to exercise his powers. A vote given or poll demanded by the representative shall be valid notwithstanding that the representative is for any reason no longer authorised to represent the body corporate, provided that no intimation in writing of the fact that the representative is no longer authorised shall have been received by the Company at the place or any of the places and within the time period applicable to notice of revocation of proxies under any provision in these Articles.

## **DIRECTORS**

88. Except as provided otherwise in these Articles, the Company may by Ordinary Resolution from time to time reduce the number of Directors and fix and vary the maximum number of Directors. Unless otherwise determined by the Company by Ordinary Resolution, the number of Directors shall in no event be less than seven.
89. A Director shall not require a share qualification, but nevertheless shall be entitled to attend and speak at any General Meeting and at any Class Meeting.
90. The fees of the Directors shall be determined from time to time by the Company in General Meeting. Any Director while holding the office of Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall be entitled to such special remuneration, whether in substitution for or in addition to his fees as a director, as may be determined from time to time by the Directors. Remuneration granted under this Article may be by way of fees, salary, commission, participation in profits, or all or any of such modes, or by such other mode as the Company may from time to time consider appropriate. All remuneration fixed or granted under this Article shall accrue from day to day.
91. The Directors shall also be entitled to be paid all travelling, hotel and other expenses incurred by them respectively in and about the performance of their duties as Directors, including their expenses of travelling to and from meetings of the Directors or Committees of the Directors or General Meetings.
92. Any Director who serves on any Committee or who devotes special attention to the business of the Company or who otherwise performs services which in the opinion of the Directors are outside the scope of the ordinary duties of a Director may be paid such extra remuneration by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise as the Directors may determine.

## **APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT BY ROTATION OF DIRECTORS**

93. Except as provided otherwise in these Articles and subject to the provisions of these Articles, one-third of the Directors for the time being, or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then not less than one-third shall retire from office at each Annual General Meeting.
94. Except as provided otherwise in these Articles and subject to the provisions of these Articles, the Directors to retire at each Annual General Meeting shall be the Directors who have been longest in office since their last appointment. As between Directors of equal seniority, the Directors to retire shall in the absence of agreement be selected from among them by lot. Subject as aforesaid, a retiring Director shall be eligible for re-appointment and shall act as a Director throughout the meeting at which he retires.
95. The Company may by Ordinary Resolution at the meeting at which any Director retires in manner aforesaid fill up the vacated office by appointing a person who is willing to act to be a Director, and in default the retiring Director, if willing to act, shall be deemed

to have been re-appointed unless at such meeting it is expressly resolved not to fill such vacated office or a resolution for the re-appointment of such Director shall have been put to the meeting and lost.

96. At a General Meeting a motion for the appointment of two or more persons as Directors of the Company by a single resolution shall not be made unless a resolution that it shall be so made has been first agreed to by the meeting without any vote being given against it and any resolution moved in contravention of this provision shall be void.
97. Subject to the provisions of these Articles, no person, other than a Director retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors for appointment, be eligible for appointment to the office of Director at any General Meeting unless, within the prescribed time before the day appointed for the meeting, there shall have been given to the Company notice in writing by a member duly qualified to be present and vote at the meeting, of his intention to propose such person for appointment and also notice in writing signed by the person to be proposed of his willingness to act, if so appointed. A member may not propose himself for appointment. The prescribed time above mentioned shall be such that, between the date when the notice is served or deemed to be served and the day appointed for the meeting, there shall be not less than forty-two days. A proposal put to the meeting under this Article for the appointment of a person, not being a Director retiring at the meeting or a person recommended by the Directors, to be a Director shall be decided on a poll unless the Chairman of the meeting rules otherwise.
98. Subject to the provisions of these Articles, where the Company by Ordinary Resolution in accordance with Article 88 reduces the number of Directors it may by such resolution determine in what rotation such reduced number shall retire from office.
99. The Directors may from time to time and at any time appoint any person to be a Director either to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional Director. Subject to the provisions of the Acts, a Director so appointed shall hold office only until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting following next after his appointment, when he shall retire. A Director who retires under this Article shall be eligible for re- appointment at the meeting at which he retires, but shall not be taken into account in determining the rotation of retirement of Directors or the number of Directors to retire at such meeting.

## **VACATION OF OFFICE, DISQUALIFICATION**

### **AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS**

100.
  - (a) A person shall be disqualified from being a Director, and the office of a Director shall *ipso facto* be vacated forthwith, in any of the following circumstances:-
    - (i) if he be or has been at any time adjudged bankrupt or has or had a receiving order made against him, or he make or has made any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally;
    - (ii) if he be declared by an order of a court or other competent authority to be mentally disordered;
    - (iii) if he be prohibited or restricted from being a Director or a director of any company by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction made under a provision of the Acts or of any statute or otherwise by law;

- (iv) if, without prior leave of the Directors, he be absent from meetings of the Directors for six successive months and his alternate Director (if any) shall not during such period have attended in his stead and the Directors resolve that his office be vacated on that account;
  - (v) if, unless the Directors or the court otherwise determine, he be convicted of an indictable offence; or
  - (vi) if he be requested by resolution of the Directors to resign his office as Director. To be valid for this purpose the resolution shall be passed without a dissenting vote (excluding the vote of the Director) at a specially convened meeting of the Directors at which every Director shall be present in person or be represented by an alternate and of which not less than seven days' notice in writing of the intention to move the resolution and specifying the grounds therefor shall have been given to the Director. The notice shall request the Director to attend the meeting to show cause why, if such be his intention, the resolution should not be passed; any action taken by the Directors pursuant to this paragraph shall be without prejudice to the rights (if any) of the Director in question to seek compensation or damages from the Company In respect of the termination of his appointment as a Director or of any appointment terminating with that of Director.
- (b) The office of a Director shall be vacated, subject to any right of appointment or re-appointment under these Articles, if:-
- (i) not being a Director holding for a fixed term an executive office in his capacity as a Director, he resigns his office by notice in writing addressed to the Company and left at or sent to the Office; or
  - (ii) being the holder of an executive office under the Company other than for a fixed term, he shall cease to hold such executive office on retirement or otherwise; or
  - (iii) he tender his resignation to the Directors and the Directors resolve to accept the same; or
  - (iv) he ceases to be a Director pursuant to any provision of these Articles.
101. The Company may, by Ordinary Resolution, in accordance with the provisions of the Acts, remove any Director before the expiry of his period of office notwithstanding anything in these Articles or in any agreement between the Company and such Director and may, if thought fit, subject as provided in Article 99 hereof, by Ordinary Resolution appoint another Director in his stead. The person appointed shall be subject to retirement by rotation at the same time as if he had become a Director on the date on which the Director in whose place he is appointed was last appointed a Director. Nothing in this Article shall be taken as depriving a person removed thereunder of compensation or damages payable to him in respect of the termination of his appointment as Director or of any appointment terminating with that of Director.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

102. (a) The Directors may from time to time appoint one or more of their body to be the holder of any executive office on such terms and for such period as they

think fit and, subject to the terms of any agreement entered into in any particular case, may revoke such appointment.

- (b) A Director appointed to any executive office shall be subject to retirement by rotation and shall be taken into account in determining the rotation of retirement of Directors and the number of Directors to retire by rotation.
- (c) A Director holding any such executive office shall receive such remuneration, whether in addition to or in substitution for his ordinary remuneration as a Director and whether by way of salary, commission, participation in profits or otherwise or partly in one way and partly in another, as the Directors may determine.
- (d) The Directors may confer upon a Director holding any such executive office any of the powers exercisable by them as Directors (save the control of shares) upon such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as they think fit, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of their own powers, and may from time to time revoke, withdraw or vary all or any such powers.

### **ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

103. A Director may from time to time by writing under his hand appoint any other person to be his alternate but no such appointment, whereof the person appointed is not a Director or a director of a subsidiary of the Company, shall be operative unless and until approved by the Directors. Every such alternate shall (subject to his giving to the Company an address within Ireland at which notices may be served upon him) be entitled to notice of meetings of the Directors and to attend and vote as a Director (having an additional vote for each Director for whom he acts as alternate) at any such meeting at which the Director appointing him is not personally present and generally at such meeting to have and exercise all the powers, rights, duties and authorities of the Director appointing him and the provisions of these Articles shall apply as if he (instead of his appointer) were a Director. Every such alternate shall also be entitled in the absence from Ireland of the Director appointing him to sign on his behalf a resolution in writing of the Directors. Every such alternate shall be an Officer of the Company and shall not be deemed to be the agent of the Director appointing him. The remuneration of an alternate shall be payable out of the remuneration payable to the Director appointing him, and shall consist of such portion of the last mentioned remuneration as shall be agreed between such alternate and the Director appointing him. A Director may by writing under his hand deposited at the Office at any time revoke the appointment of an alternate appointed by him. If a Director shall die or cease to hold the office of Director the appointment of his alternate shall thereupon cease and determine; provided that if any Director retires by rotation but is re-appointed by the meeting at which such retirement took effect, any appointment made by him pursuant to this Article which was in force immediately prior to his retirement shall continue to operate after his re-appointment as if he had not so retired. The appointment of an alternate Director shall also cease upon the happening of any event which if he were a Director would cause him to vacate such office.

### **POWERS OF DIRECTORS**

104. Subject to the provisions of the Acts, the Memorandum and these Articles and to any directions, not being inconsistent with these Articles or the Acts, given by Special Resolution, the business of the Company shall be managed by the Directors who may exercise all the powers of the Company. No alteration of the Memorandum or Articles and no such direction shall invalidate any prior act of the Directors which would have

been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given. The powers given by this Article shall not be limited by any special power given to the Directors by these Articles and a meeting of Directors at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the Directors.

105. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions:-

- (a) The Directors may make such arrangements as may be thought fit for the management, organisation and administration of the Company's affairs in any place, whether at home or abroad, in which the Company carries on or intends to carry on business, or maintains or intends to maintain a presence, and may for this purpose establish such boards (including local, divisional or international boards, management and supervisory boards) and committees and appoint such executive and administrative officers, managers, attorneys, representatives and agents as they consider appropriate to the particular place and in the particular circumstances and fix the terms and conditions (including remuneration and perquisites) applicable to such boards, committees and appointments and delegate to them (with such powers of sub-delegation as they shall deem fit) such functions, powers and duties as to the Directors may seem requisite or expedient.
- (b) The Directors may from time to time and at any time by power of attorney under the Seal or under the Official Seal appoint any corporation or person or any fluctuating body of persons, whether nominated directly or indirectly by the Directors, to be the attorney or attorneys of the Company for such purposes and with such powers, authorities and discretions (not exceeding those vested in or exercisable by the Directors under these Articles) and for such period and subject to such conditions as they may think fit, and any such power of attorney may contain such provisions for the protection and convenience of persons dealing with any such attorneys as the Directors may think fit and may also authorise any such attorney to sub-delegate all or any of the powers, authorities and discretions vested in him.
- (c) The Directors may establish and maintain or procure the establishment and maintenance of any non-contributory or contributory pension or superannuation funds for the benefit of, and give or procure the giving of donations, gratuities, pensions, allowances or emoluments to any persons who are or were at any time in the employment or service of the Company or of any company which is a subsidiary of the Company or is allied to or associated with the Company or with any such subsidiary, or who are or were at any time Directors or Officers of the Company or of any such other company as aforesaid, and the wives, widows, families and dependants of any such persons, and may make payments for or towards the insurance of any such persons as aforesaid, and may do any of the matters aforesaid either alone or in conjunction with any such other company as aforesaid, subject always, if the Acts shall so require, to particulars with respect thereto being disclosed to the members and to the proposal being approved by the Company by Ordinary Resolution. A Director holding a salaried position of employment or office with or under the Company shall, notwithstanding, be entitled to participate in and retain for his own benefit any such donation, gratuity, pension, allowance or emolument.
- (d) The Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money and to mortgage or charge its undertaking, property and uncalled capital or any part thereof and to issue debentures, debenture stock and other securities

whether outright or as security for any debts, liabilities, or obligation of the Company or of any third party.

106. (a) A Director may hold any other office or place of profit under the Company (except that of statutory auditor) in conjunction with his office of Director, and may act in a professional capacity to the Company, on such terms as to remuneration and otherwise as the Directors shall arrange.
- (b) A Director may be or become a director or other officer of, or otherwise interested in, any company holding shares in the Company or in any associated company or in any company promoted by the Company or in which the Company may be interested as member or otherwise, and unless otherwise determined by the Directors no Director shall be accountable for any remuneration or other benefits received by him as a director or officer of or from his interest in such other company. The Directors may also exercise the voting power conferred by the shares in any other company held or owned by the Company in such manner in all respects as they think fit, including the exercise thereof in favour of any resolution appointing them or any of their number directors or officers of such other company or voting or providing for the payment of remuneration to the directors or officers of such other company.
- (c) A Director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a contract or arrangement or proposed contract or arrangement with the Company shall declare the nature of his interest at the meeting of the Directors at which the question of entering into the contract or arrangement is first taken into consideration, if his interest then exists, or in any other case at the first meeting of the Directors after he becomes so interested. A general notice given by a Director to the effect that he is a member of a specified company or firm and is to be regarded as interested in all transactions with such company or firm shall be sufficient declaration of interest under this Article, and after such general notice it shall not be necessary to give any special notice relating to any subsequent transaction with such company or firm, provided that either the notice is given at a meeting of the Directors or the Director giving the same takes reasonable steps to secure that it is brought up and read at the next meeting of Directors after it is given.
- (d) (i) Save as herein provided, a Director shall not vote in respect of any contract or arrangement or any other proposal whatsoever in which he has any material interest otherwise than by virtue of his interests in shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise in or through the Company. A Director shall not be counted in the quorum at a meeting in relation to any resolution on which he is debarred from voting.
- (ii) A Director shall (in the absence of some other material interest than is indicated below) be entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of any resolution concerning any of the following matters namely:-
- (A) the giving of any security or indemnity to him in respect of money lent or obligations incurred by him at the request of or for the benefit of the Company or any of its subsidiaries;
- (B) the giving of any security or indemnity to a third party in respect of a debt or obligation of the Company or any of its subsidiaries

for which he himself has assumed responsibility in whole or in part under a guarantee or indemnity or by giving of security;

- (C) any proposal concerning an offer of shares or debentures or other securities of or by the Company or any of its subsidiaries for subscription or purchase in which offer he is or is to be interested as a participant in the underwriting or sub-underwriting thereof;
  - (D) any proposal concerning any other company in which he is interested, directly or indirectly and whether as an officer or shareholder or otherwise howsoever, provided that he is not the holder of or beneficially interested in 1 per cent. or more of any class of the equity share capital of such company (or of any third company through which his interest is derived) or of the voting rights available to members of the relevant company (any such interest being deemed for the purpose of this Article to be a material interest in all circumstances);
  - (E) any proposal concerning the adoption, modification or operation of a superannuation fund or retirement benefits scheme under which he may benefit and which has been approved by or is subject to and conditional upon approval by the Revenue Commissioners for taxation purposes or of any employees' share scheme being a scheme for encouraging or facilitating employees (including Directors) of the Company or any of its subsidiaries to acquire shares, debentures or other securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, provided that any such fund or scheme does not accord to any Director as such any privilege or advantage not generally accorded to the employees to whom the fund or scheme relates; and
  - (F) any other arrangement for the benefit of employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries under which such Director benefits or stands to benefit in a similar manner as the employees concerned and which does not accord to any Director as such any privilege or advantage not generally accorded to the employees to whom the arrangement relates.
- (iii) Where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment (including fixing or varying the terms of appointment) of two or more Directors to offices or employments with the Company or any company in which the Company is interested, such proposals may be divided and considered in relation to each Director separately and in such cases each of the Directors concerned (if not debarred from voting under the proviso to sub-paragraph (ii) (D) of this Article) shall be entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of each resolution except that concerning his own appointment.
  - (iv) If any question shall arise at any meeting as to the materiality of a Director's interest or as to the entitlement of any Director to vote and such question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting, such question shall be referred to the chairman of the meeting and his ruling in relation to any other Director shall be final and

conclusive except in a case where the nature or extent of the interests of the Director concerned have not been fairly disclosed.

- (v) The Company may by Ordinary Resolution suspend or relax the provisions of this Article to extend or ratify any transaction not duly authorised by reason of a contravention of this Article.
- (e) A Director may use the property of the Company pursuant to or in connection with:
  - (i) the exercise or performance of his or her duties, functions and powers as Director or employee;
  - (ii) the terms of any contract of service or employment or letter of appointment; and, or in the alternative; or
  - (iii) any other usage authorised by the Directors (or a person authorised by the Directors) from time to time,

including in each case for a Director's own benefit or for the benefit of another person.

- (f) Nothing in section 228(1)(e) shall restrict a Director from entering into any commitment which has been approved by the Board or has been approved pursuant to such authority as may be delegated by the Board in accordance with these Articles. It shall be the duty of each Director to obtain the prior approval of the Board, before entering into any commitment permitted by sections 228(1)(e) and 228(2) of the Act.

107. A copy of every declaration made and notice given under the preceding Article shall within three days after the making or giving thereof be entered in a book kept for this purpose. Such book shall be open for inspection without charge by any Director, Secretary, statutory auditor or member of the Company at the Office and shall be produced at every General Meeting of the Company and at any meeting of the Directors if any Director so requests in sufficient time to enable the book to be available at the meeting.

### **PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS**

108. The Directors may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. A Director who is also an alternate Director shall be entitled in the absence of the Director by whom he was appointed to a separate vote on behalf of such Director in addition to his own vote. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
109. The Chairman may, and on the request of a Director or the Secretary shall, at any time summon a meeting of the Directors. It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting of Directors to any Director for the time being outside Ireland who has not left at the Office an address within Ireland to which any such notice may be delivered. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting and any such waiver may be retroactive. Notice of a meeting of the Directors shall be deemed to be duly given to a Director if it is given personally or by word of mouth or by telephone or sent in writing by delivery, post, cable, telegram, telex, telefax, electronic mail or any other means of

communication to the Director at the last known address of such Director or any other address given by the Director to the Company for this purpose.

110. (a) The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors shall be three or such lesser or higher number as from time to time may be fixed by the Directors. For the purposes of this Article an alternate Director shall be counted in a quorum, but so that not less than two individuals shall constitute the quorum.
- (b) A meeting of Directors shall be deemed to be validly held notwithstanding that Directors do not physically meet together in the same place provided that:
- (i) notice that a meeting will be held by telephone (or by some other means of electronic communication which permits all persons who will participate in such a meeting to hear each other) has been given to all Directors entitled thereto in accordance with these Articles specifying the date and time at which such meeting is to occur (the "**Specified Time**") together with an agenda of all material matters to be considered at such meeting;
  - (ii) the Chairman (or, as the case may be, the Deputy Chairman) has, within one hour of the Specified Time, contacted by means of a conference telephone call (or by any other communications equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other) as many Directors as are available to participate in such meeting and at least such number of Directors as are required to satisfy the quorum specified in (a) above;
  - (iii) such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or if there is no such group, in such location as the meeting itself decides; and
  - (iv) a minute of the proceedings at such meeting by telephone or other means of communication shall be sufficient evidence of such proceedings and of the observance of all necessary formalities if certified as a correct minute by the chairman of the meeting.

A meeting under this provision may only be held if, in the opinion of the Chairman (or, as the case may be, of the Deputy Chairman), it is necessary in the interests of the Company to hold a meeting of the Directors forthwith and it is not practicable to have a meeting at which the Directors are physically present.

111. The continuing Directors or Director may at any time act notwithstanding any vacancy in their body; provided that in case the Directors shall at any time be reduced in number to less than the minimum number fixed by or in accordance with these Articles, the continuing Directors or Director may act for the purpose of appointing an additional Director or Directors to make up such minimum, or of summoning a General Meeting of the Company, but for no other purpose.

112. The Directors may from time to time appoint and remove a Chairman or Deputy Chairman. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Directors, but if no such Chairman be appointed, or if at any meeting the Chairman be not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the same or for any reason be unwilling to preside the Deputy Chairman shall preside or if no such Deputy Chairman be

appointed or if at any meeting the Deputy Chairman be not present within such five minutes or for any reason be unwilling to preside, the Directors present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman of such meeting.

113. The Directors may from time to time appoint a Committee or Committees and delegate to it or them all or any of their authorities, discretions, functions and powers. Members of a Committee may be appointed by name or, without being named, on a numerical basis. Any Committee so appointed may consist of such Directors and Officers as the Directors shall think fit provided that the number of Officers (not being Directors) appointed to any such Committee shall be less than one-half of the total number of the Committee. No resolution of a Committee shall be effective unless a majority of the members of the Committee present at the meeting are Directors. Any Committee so appointed, whether for a particular purpose or for a fixed period or for an indefinite period, may at any time by resolution of the Directors be dissolved and the Directors may at any time by like resolution revoke or vary any authority, discretion, function or power delegated to any such Committee and appoint another Committee and nominate different Directors and Officers in the place of any existing Committee or the members of any such Committee.
114. The meetings and proceedings of any such Committee shall be governed by the provisions of these Articles regulating the meetings of Directors so far as the same are applicable and are not superseded by any regulations made by the Directors under or for the purpose of the last preceding Article.
115. All acts done at or by any meeting of Directors or of a Committee, or by any person acting as a Director or Officer shall as regards all persons dealing in good faith with the Company, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any Director, Committee or Officer or person acting as aforesaid or in the case of a Director that he was disqualified or had vacated office or was not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person being a Director had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Director and had been entitled to vote and in the case of any Officer (not being a Director) that he had been duly authorised to so act.

#### **MINUTES AND AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS**

116. (a) The Directors shall cause proper minutes to be made of all proceedings of General Meetings and Class Meetings of the Company and of meetings of Directors and of any Committee and of the attendances thereat and of all appointments of Officers made by the Directors.  
  
(b) Any register, index, minute book, book of account or other book required to be kept by or on behalf of the Company may be kept either by making entries in bound or loose-leaf books or by recording the entries in any other manner or using any system approved by the Directors from time to time. In any case in which bound books are not used, the Directors, in consultation with the statutory auditors, shall take adequate precautions for guarding against falsification and for facilitating its discovery.
117. (a) A resolution in writing signed by all the Directors or by all the members of a Committee shall be as effective for all purposes as a resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Directors or of the Committee, as the case may be, duly convened and held and may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more Directors or members of the Committee.

- (b) Any Director, Officer or the Secretary or any person appointed by the Directors for the purpose shall have power to authenticate any documents affecting the constitution of the Company and any resolutions passed by the Company or the Directors or any Committee, and any books, records, documents and accounts relating to the business of the Company, and to certify copies thereof or extracts therefrom as true copies or extracts; and, where any books, records, documents or accounts are elsewhere than at the Office, the local manager or other official of the Company having the custody thereof shall be deemed to be a person appointed by the Directors as aforesaid. A document purporting to be a copy of a resolution, or an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Company or of the Directors or any Committee which is certified as aforesaid shall be conclusive evidence in favour of all persons dealing with the Company upon the faith thereof that such resolution has been duly passed or, as the case may be, that such extract is a true and accurate record of proceedings at a duly constituted meeting.

118. All cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable or transferable instruments, and all receipts for moneys paid to the Company, shall be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed, or otherwise executed, as the case may be, in such manner and by such persons, whether Directors or Officers or not, as the Directors shall from time to time determine.

#### **SECRETARY**

119. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Directors and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them but without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the Company. Anything by the Acts required or authorised to be done by or to the Secretary may be done by or to any assistant or acting secretary or, if there is no assistant or acting secretary capable of acting, by or to any Officer of the Company authorised generally or specially in that behalf by the Directors; provided that any provision of the Acts or these Articles requiring or authorising a thing to be done by or to a Director and the Secretary shall not be satisfied by its being done by or to the same person acting both as a Director and as, or in the place of, the Secretary.

#### **REGISTER OF DIRECTORS' SHARE AND DEBENTURE HOLDINGS**

120. A register of directors' share and debenture holdings shall be kept at the Office and shall be open to the inspection of any member or holder of debentures of the Company on each day during which the same is bound to be open for inspection pursuant to the Acts.

#### **THE SEAL**

121. (a) The Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of a resolution of the Directors dealing with the sealing of instruments generally or with any instrument in particular or of a resolution of a Committee authorised by the Directors in that behalf and, subject as provided in (c) of this Article, every instrument to which the Seal shall be affixed shall, as part of the sealing process, be signed by at least one Director, Officer or other person duly authorised in that behalf by the Directors and the Secretary or one of the persons authorised as aforesaid (who has not already signed) and, in favour of any purchaser or person bona fide dealing with the Company, such signatures shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the Seal has been properly affixed.

- (b) The Directors may by resolution determine to have an Official Seal — Securities for use generally in sealing certificates for shares and other securities of the Company and the Directors may make such regulations governing the custody and use of such Official Seal as they deem appropriate.
- (c) The Directors may by resolution determine, either generally or in any particular case, that in respect of certificates for shares or securities of the Company the signatures of any Director or the Secretary or other person as aforesaid forming part of the sealing, may be applied or effected by non-autographic means, or that such certificates, being sealed, shall bear no signatures and in favour of any registered holder or other person acquiring any such shares or securities in good faith a certificate executed in any of the modes of execution authorised herein shall be as valid and effective as if such certificate was issued under the Seal or the Official Seal — Securities, as the case may be, of the Company pursuant to (a) or (b) of this Article.

### **OFFICIAL SEALS**

122. Subject to the provisions of the Acts the Directors may adopt an Official Seal or Official Seals for use in connection with the execution by the Company of documents abroad. The Official Seal for use in the United Kingdom in the form in which it exists at the date of adoption of these Articles is, and until altered, varied or replaced by the Directors, shall constitute the Official Seal of the Company for use in the United Kingdom.

### **DIVIDENDS**

123. Subject to the provisions of the Acts, the Company may by Ordinary Resolution declare dividends provided that:
- (a) no dividend shall be payable otherwise than out of the profits available for distribution; and
  - (b) no higher dividend shall be paid than is recommended by the Directors.

No dividend or other monies payable in respect of a share shall bear interest against the Company unless otherwise provided by the rights attached to the share.

124. Subject to any preferential or other special rights for the time being attached to any class of shares, the profits of the Company available for distribution which it shall from time to time be determined to distribute by way of dividend shall be applied in payment of dividends upon the shares of the Company in proportion to the amounts paid up thereon respectively otherwise than in advance of calls. All dividends shall be apportioned and paid *pro rata* according to the amounts for the time being paid up on the shares during the period in respect of which the dividend is paid except that if any share is issued on terms providing that it shall rank for dividend as from a particular date such share shall rank for dividend accordingly.
125. Subject to the provisions of the Acts, the Directors may, if they think fit, from time to time pay to the members such interim dividends as appear to the Directors to be justified by the profits of the Company available for distribution. Provided that the Directors act *bona fide*, they shall not incur any responsibility to the holders of any shares conferring a preference which may at any time be issued for any damage they may suffer by reason of the payment of an interim dividend on any shares ranking after such preference shares. Subject as aforesaid, if at any time the share capital of the Company is divided into different classes, the Directors may pay such interim dividends

in respect of those shares in the capital of the Company which confer on the holders thereof deferred or non-preferred rights as well as in respect of those shares which confer on the holders thereof preferential rights with regard to dividends. The Directors may also pay half-yearly or at other suitable intervals to be settled by them any dividend which may be payable at a fixed rate if they are of the opinion that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.

126. The Directors may deduct from any dividend or other moneys payable on or in respect of any shares held by a member all sums of money (if any) presently payable by him to the Company on account of calls or otherwise in relation to the shares of the Company.
127. The Directors may retain the dividends payable upon shares in respect of which any person is under Article 44 hereof entitled to become a member or which any person under such Article is entitled to transfer, until such person shall become a member in respect thereof or shall duly transfer the same.
128. The Directors may, until claimed, invest or otherwise use all unclaimed dividends for the benefit of the Company but no such investment or use shall constitute the Company a trustee for the person entitled to such dividends or entitle such person to interest against the Company. A dividend declared under Article 123 or payable pursuant to Article 125 remaining unclaimed 12 years after the date the dividend became due for payment may be treated by the Company as having reverted, on forfeiture, to and to form part of the assets of the Company.
129.
  - (a) Any dividend or other moneys payable on or in respect of a share may be paid by cheque or warrant sent through the post to the registered address of the member or person entitled thereto, and in the case of joint holders to the first named of such joint holders whose name stands first in the Register of Members in respect of the joint holding, or to such person and such address as the holder or joint holders may direct. Every such cheque or warrant shall be made payable to the order of the person to whom it is sent or to such person as the holder or joint holders may direct, and payment of the cheque or warrant shall be a good discharge to the Company. Any such dividend or other moneys payable in respect of a share may also be paid by any other method as the Directors may consider appropriate including by any electronic funds transfer system or any other electronic means to an account or address designated by the holder or joint holders as the case may be. The Company shall have no responsibility for any such dividend or other moneys lost or delayed in the course of any such transfer. Every such cheque, warrant or payment shall be sent at the risk of the person entitled to the money represented thereby.
  - (b) The Company may cease sending dividend cheques or warrants by post or making electronic payments to a member if such cheques or warrants have been returned undelivered or left uncashed or such electronic payment fails for any reason and reasonable enquiries have failed to establish any new address of or instruction from the registered holder.
  - (c) The Directors may, at their discretion, make arrangements to enable a central securities depository (or its nominee(s)) or any such other member or members as the Directors shall from time to time determine to receive duly declared dividends in any currency or currencies other than the currency in which such dividends are declared. For the purposes of the calculation of the amount receivable in respect of any dividend, the rate of exchange to be used to determine the equivalent in any such other currency of any sum payable as a

dividend shall be such rate or rates, and the payment thereof shall be on such terms and conditions, as the Directors may in their absolute discretion determine.

- (d) If the Directors decide that a dividend payment will be made by electronic means to an account (of a type approved by the Directors) nominated by a Holder or joint Holders, but no such account is nominated by the Holder or joint Holders or an electronic transfer into a nominated account is rejected or refunded, the Company may credit the amount payable to an account of the Company to be held until such time as the Holder nominates a valid account.
130. If several persons are registered as joint holders of any share, any one of them may give effectual receipts for any dividend or other moneys payable on or in respect of the share.
131. The Company, upon the recommendation of the Directors, may, by Ordinary Resolution declaring a dividend, direct payment of such dividend wholly or in part by the distribution of specific assets and in particular, of paid up shares or debentures of any other company, and the Directors shall give effect to such resolution. Where any difficulty arises in regard to the distribution, the Directors may settle the same as they think expedient and in particular may issue fractional certificates in respect of shares held in certificated form and may fix the value for distribution of such specific assets or any part thereof and may determine that cash payments shall be made to any members upon the footing of the value so fixed in order to adjust the rights of members and may vest any specific assets in trustees upon trust for the persons entitled to the dividend as the Directors think expedient and generally may make such arrangements for the allotment, acceptance and sale of such specific assets or fractional certificates, or any part thereof and otherwise as they think fit.
132. The Directors may, with the authority of an Ordinary Resolution of the Company, offer to the holders of Ordinary Shares the right to elect to receive an allotment of additional Ordinary Shares, credited as fully paid, instead of cash in respect of all or part of any dividend which is specified in the applicable Ordinary Resolution or such part of such dividend as the Directors may determine. The following provisions shall have effect:
- (a) Any such Ordinary Resolution may specify a particular dividend or may specify all or any dividends falling to be declared or paid in favour of or to holders of Ordinary Shares during a specified period, being a period expiring not later than five years from the date on which the resolution is passed.
  - (b) The basis of allotment shall be determined by the Board so that as nearly as may be considered convenient, the value (calculated by reference to the average quotation or, at the discretion of the Directors, not more than 5% below such quotation) of the additional Ordinary Shares (including any fractional entitlement) to be allotted instead of any cash amount of dividend shall be equal to such amount. For such purpose the "average quotation" of an Ordinary Share shall be the average of the middle market quotations (less the relevant dividend unless the Ordinary Shares are already quoted ex such dividend) on Euronext Dublin (derived from the Euronext Dublin Daily Official List or any similar publication or any equivalent publication for securities admitted to trading on the market in Ireland on which the Company's Ordinary Shares are from time to time admitted to trading) on at least five consecutive dealing days selected by the Directors, but commencing no earlier than the day upon which the proposed relevant dividend is announced by the Directors.

- (c) The Directors shall give notice in writing to the holders of the Ordinary Shares of the rights of election offered to them and shall send with or following such notice forms of election and specify the procedure to be followed and the place at which and the latest date and time by which duly completed forms of election must be lodged in order to be effective.
- (d) The dividend (or that part of the dividend in respect of which a right of election has been offered) shall not be payable on Ordinary Shares in respect of which the said election has been duly exercised ("the elected Ordinary Shares") and instead thereof additional Ordinary Shares shall be allotted to the holders of the elected Ordinary Shares on the basis of allotment determined as aforesaid. For such purpose the Directors shall capitalise, out of such of the sums standing to the credit of reserves (including any undenominated capital, any share premium account and capital redemption reserve) or profit and loss account as the Directors may determine, a sum equal to the aggregate nominal amount of the additional Ordinary Shares to be allotted on such basis and apply the same in paying up in full the appropriate number of unissued Ordinary Shares for allotment and distribution to and amongst the holders of elected Ordinary Shares on such basis.
- (e) The additional Ordinary Shares so allotted shall rank *pari passu* in all respects with the fully paid Ordinary Shares (as the case may be) then in issue save only as regards participation in the relevant dividend (or share election in lieu).
- (f) The Directors may do all acts and things which they consider necessary or expedient to give effect to any such offer and capitalisation, with power to make such provisions as they think fit for dealing with shares becoming distributable in fractions (including provisions whereby, in whole or in part, fractional entitlements are disregarded or rounded up or the benefit of fractional entitlements accrues to the Company rather than to the members concerned). The Directors may authorise any person on behalf of all the members concerned to enter into an agreement with the Company providing for such capitalisation and matters incidental thereto and an agreement made under such authority shall be effective and binding on all persons concerned.
- (g) The Directors may also from time to time establish or vary a procedure for election mandates under which a holder of Ordinary Shares may elect to receive additional Ordinary Shares credited as fully paid instead of cash in respect of all future rights offered to that holder under this Article until the election mandate is revoked or deemed to be revoked in accordance with the procedure.
- (h) Notwithstanding the foregoing the Directors may at any time prior to payment of the relevant dividend determine, if it appears to them desirable to do so because of a change in circumstances, that the dividend shall be payable wholly in cash and if they so determine then all elections made shall be disregarded.
- (i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article, the Directors may make such exclusions from any offer of rights of election to holders of Ordinary Shares as they may think fit in the light of any legal or practical problems under the laws of any territory or the requirements of a Stock Exchange or of any regulatory authority.

133. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Articles, unless otherwise prohibited by the Acts, the Company, on the recommendation of the Directors, may by Ordinary Resolution determine that any realised accretions of capital assets not required for paying the fixed dividends on any shares entitled to fixed preferential dividends with or without further participation in profits shall be divided amongst the members in the proportion in which the same would have been divisible amongst them had the same been applied or applicable in paying dividends.

### **RESERVES**

134. (a) The Directors may before recommending any dividend, whether preferential or otherwise, carry to reserve out of the profits of the Company such sums as they think proper as a reserve or reserves which shall, at the discretion of the Directors, be applicable for any purpose to which the profits of the Company may be properly applied and pending such application may, at the like discretion, either be employed in the business of the Company or be invested in such investments (other than shares of the Company or of its holding company, if any) as the Directors may from time to time think fit. The Directors may divide the reserve into such special funds and may consolidate into one fund any special funds or any parts of any special funds into which the reserve may have been divided. The Directors may also, without placing the same to reserve, carry forward any profits which they may think it prudent not to divide.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this Article, if at any time there shall be insufficient profits standing to the credit of the profit and loss account of the Company (or any other of the Company's accounts or reserves and available for distribution) for the payment of any such dividend, the Directors shall withdraw from any such reserve fund referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this Article such sums as may be required for the payment of any such dividend (and so that the Directors shall not require the consent of the Company in General Meeting to any such withdrawal). Subject to the Acts, any sum so withdrawn (and any profits previously carried forward pursuant to sub-paragraph (a) of this Article but subsequently required for the payment of any such dividend) may be applied in or towards payment of such dividends.

### **CAPITALISATION OF PROFITS**

135. Subject as herein or by the Acts provided, the Directors may with the authority of an Ordinary Resolution resolve to capitalise all or any part of the undivided profits of the Company not required for paying any fixed dividends on any shares entitled to fixed preferential dividends (with or without further participation in profits) and whether or not such undivided profits are available for distribution, or any sum standing to the credit of the Company's undenominated capital, share premium account, capital redemption reserve or any other reserve account that is not available for distribution; and having so resolved with the authority aforesaid appropriate the sum resolved to be capitalised to the holders of Ordinary Shares on the Register of Members at the close of business on the date of the resolution (or such other date as may be specified therein or determined as therein provided) in the proportion in which such profits or sum would have been divisible amongst them had the same been applied or been applicable in paying dividends and to apply such profits or sum on their behalf either in or towards paying up the amounts (if any) for the time being unpaid on any Ordinary Shares held by such members or in paying up in full unissued Ordinary Shares (or, subject to any special rights previously conferred on any shares or class of shares for the time being issued, unissued shares of any other class not being redeemable shares) or debentures of the Company of a nominal amount equal to such profits or

sum, or partly in one way and partly in the other, and allot such shares or debentures to be allotted and distributed credited as fully paid to and amongst such members in the proportion aforesaid.

136. Whenever such a resolution as aforesaid shall have been passed, the Directors shall make all appropriations and applications of the profits or sum resolved to be capitalised thereby and all allotments and issues of fully paid shares and generally shall do all acts and things required to give effect thereto, with full power to the Directors to make such provision as they think fit for the case of shares becoming distributable in fractions including in respect of shares held in certificated form the issue of fractional certificates or by payment in cash or by declaring that the benefit of fractional entitlements of less than a specified amount shall accrue to the Company or otherwise and also to authorise any person to enter on behalf of all the members interested or who are entitled to the benefit of such appropriations and applications into an agreement with the Company providing for the allotment to them respectively, credited as fully paid up, of any further shares to be issued upon such capitalisation or for the payment up by the Company on their behalf of the amounts or any part of the amounts unpaid on any existing shares and for matters incidental thereto and any agreement made under such authority shall be effective and binding on all such members.

#### ~~CAPITALISATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE WARRANT INSTRUMENT~~

137. ~~[Not used]The Directors shall, if and to the extent required pursuant to any warrant instrument that is to be constituted by the Company in connection with the first admission of Ordinary Shares to a Stock Exchange following the adoption of these Articles for the purpose of issuing warrants over Ordinary Shares to the Minister for Finance of Ireland (the “Minister”) or any other Government Body nominated by the Minister (the “Warrant Instrument” and the holder(s) of warrants issued pursuant to the Warrant Instrument being the “Warrantholder(s)”), resolve that any sum standing to the credit of any of the Company’s undistributable reserves (including any undenominated capital, or any share premium account) and the distributable reserves of the Company, be capitalised as a new issue of Ordinary Shares issued in accordance with the Warrant Instrument (such Ordinary Shares being “Warrant Shares”) to the Warrantholder(s), such Warrant Shares to be credited as paid up in full as follows:~~

- ~~(a) the monies received by the Company on exercise of the warrants pursuant to the Warrant Instrument; and~~
- ~~(b) such sum standing to the credit of the Company’s reserves (including any undenominated capital, any share premium account) as is equal to the nominal value of the Warrant Shares less the monies referred to in Article 137(a),~~

~~subject to the Company not being prohibited by law from doing so, provided however that where the Company has insufficient reserves to pay up in full any of the Warrant Shares referred to above it may be required by the Warrantholder(s) pursuant to the Warrant Instrument to issue his/their entitlement of such Warrant Shares on the basis that the Company shall pay up the issue price of such Warrant Shares out of a portion of the available reserves of the Company corresponding to the percentage which such Warrant Shares corresponds to the total number of Warrant Shares which fall to be issued at such time and provided that the Warrantholder(s) pay(s) up the balance to be paid up on the Warrant Shares he requires to be issued to him/them. Any capitalisation pursuant to this Article shall be deemed to be authorised by the resolution adopting this Article.~~

## ACCOUNTING RECORDS

138. The Directors shall cause adequate accounting records to be kept in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.
139. The accounting records shall be kept at the Office or (subject to the provisions of the Acts or any other statute) at such other place as the Directors shall think fit and shall always be open to the inspection of the Directors. No member (not being a Director) shall have any right of inspecting any account or book or document of the Company except as conferred by the Acts or by statute or when authorised by the Directors or ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
140. The Directors shall from time to time, in accordance with the provisions of the Acts, cause to be prepared and to be laid before the Company in General Meeting such profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, group financial statements (if any) and reports as are specified in the Acts and such accounts and balance sheets shall be signed in accordance with the Acts.
141. A copy of the Directors' and statutory auditors' reports, accompanied by (a) copies of the balance sheet, profit and loss account and other documents required by the Act to be annexed to the balance sheet or (b) such summary financial statements as may be permitted by the Acts (including under Section 1119), shall, twenty-one clear days at the least before the Annual General Meeting, be delivered or sent by post to the registered address of, or sent by electronic communication in accordance with Section 338(4) of the Act to such address as may for the time being be notified to the Company for that purpose, every member and every holder of debentures of the Company (whether or not they are entitled to receive notice of meetings) and to the statutory auditors and, provided that if copies of such documents are sent less than twenty-one clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, they shall, notwithstanding that fact, be deemed to have been duly sent if it is so agreed by all the members entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting. Whenever all or any of the shares or debentures of the Company shall for the time being be listed on a Stock Exchange there shall be forwarded to the appropriate officer of such Stock Exchange such number of copies of such documents as may for the time being be required under its regulations or practice. It shall not be necessary under these Articles for the Company to send a copy of the said documents to more than one joint holder of shares or debentures of the Company or to any person whose address is unknown to the Company but any such person shall be entitled to receive such documents free of charge on application to the Company in writing addressed to the Office. Copies of the documents referred to in this Article are also to be treated, for the purposes of this Article and subject to Section 338(6) and Section 338(7) of the Act, as sent to such persons where:
  - (a) the Company and that person have agreed to his or her having access to the documents on a website (instead of their being sent to him or her);
  - (b) the documents are documents to which that agreement applies; and
  - (c) that person is notified, in a manner for the time being agreed for the purpose between him or her and the Company, of the publication of the documents on a website, the address of that website and the place on that website where the documents may be accessed, and how they may be accessed.

142. The statutory auditors' report shall be open to inspection by any member.
143. Every account of the Directors when audited and approved by an Annual General Meeting shall be conclusive except as regards any error discovered therein within three months next after the approval thereof. Whenever such an error is discovered within that period, the account shall forthwith be corrected and thereupon shall be conclusive.

#### **STATUTORY AUDITORS**

144. The statutory auditors shall be appointed and their duties in regard to audit shall be regulated and carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.

#### **NOTICES**

145. A notice or other document may be served by the Company upon any member:
- (a) by handing it to the member or his authorised agent;
  - (b) by leaving it at his address as appearing in the Register of Members;
  - (c) by sending it through the post in a prepaid envelope or wrapper addressed to such member at his address as appearing in the Register of Members;
  - (d) through a relevant system, where the notice or document relates to shares held in uncertificated form;
  - (e) by sending it, with the consent of the member, subject to these Articles, by means of electronic mail or other means of electronic communication approved by the Directors, with the consent of the member, to the address of the member notified to the Company by the member for such purpose (or if not so notified, then to the address of the member last known to the Company); or
  - (f) where appropriate, by making it available on a website and notifying the member of its availability in accordance with this Article.

In the case of joint holders of a share, all notices shall be given to that one of the joint holders whose name stands first in the Register of Members in respect of the joint holding and notice so given shall be sufficient notice to all the joint holders.

146. As regards those members who have no registered address in Ireland or the United Kingdom, a notice posted up in the Office shall be deemed to be well served on them at the expiration of twenty-four hours after it is so posted up.
147. Any member described in the Register of Members by an address not in Ireland or the United Kingdom who shall from time to time give the Company an address in Ireland or the United Kingdom at which notices may be served upon him shall be entitled to have notices served upon him at such address.
148. Any notice required to be given by the Company to the members or debenture holders or any of them, and not provided for by or pursuant to these Articles shall be sufficiently given if given by advertisement which shall be inserted once in one Dublin, one Belfast, one Cork and one leading London daily newspaper.

149. (a) If at any time the Company is unable effectively to convene a General Meeting by notices sent through the post either in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America or Japan (for the purposes of this Article, the "affected territory") as a result of the suspension or curtailment of postal services, notice of such General Meeting may be sufficiently given to those members with registered addresses in the affected territory by advertisement in such affected territory. Any notice given by advertisement shall be advertised on the same date, in the case of Ireland, in at least two leading daily newspapers with appropriate circulation, of which one shall be a leading daily newspaper with general circulation in Ireland and, in the case of the United Kingdom, in one leading London daily newspaper and, in the case of the United States of America, in The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times and, in the case of Japan, in one leading Tokyo daily newspaper (but if any newspaper named herein shall by reason of industrial action or otherwise not be published on the date on which the advertisement is due to appear, publication in another leading newspaper shall be sufficient).
- (b) A notice given in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall be deemed to have been validly given in accordance with these Articles and shall be deemed to have been served at noon on the day on which the advertisement, or the last advertisement to be published, appears in the relevant daily newspapers.
- (c) Nothing in this Article is intended to restrict the right of the Company or the Directors to avail of the provisions of Section 179 of the Act, for the purpose of convening a General Meeting if it should appear to the Directors that it would be more appropriate to apply to the court for an order pursuant to that Section.
150. (a) Any notice or other document if served pursuant to Article 145(a) or (b), shall be deemed to have been served at the time the same was handed to the member or his authorised agent or left at his registered address (as the case may be).
- (b) Any notice or other document if served pursuant to Article 145(c) shall be deemed to have been served at the expiration of twenty-four hours after the envelope or wrapper containing the same was posted, and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope or wrapper containing the notice was properly addressed, stamped and put into the post or accepted by the post office for delivery. A certificate in writing signed by the Secretary or any other clerk, official, Officer or employee of the Company that the envelope or wrapper containing the notice was so addressed, stamped and put in the post or received by the post office shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.
- (c) Any notice or other document if served pursuant to Article 145(d) shall be deemed to have been served when the Company or any sponsoring system-participant acting on its behalf sends the issuer-instruction relating thereto.
- (d) Any notice or other document if served pursuant to Article 145(e) shall be deemed to have been served at the time on which the electronic communication was sent notwithstanding that the Company subsequently sends a hard copy of such notice or other document by post. In proving such service, a certificate in writing signed by the Secretary or any other clerk, official, Officer or employee of the Company that the notice or other document was so sent shall be conclusive evidence of that fact. Any requirement for the consent of a member in regard to receipt by such member of any notice or documents by means of electronic communication shall be deemed to have

been satisfied where the Company has written to the member informing him or her of its intention to use electronic communication for such purposes and the member has not within four weeks of the issue of such notice, given an objection in writing served on the Company.

- (f) Any notice or other document made available on a website shall be deemed to have been served on the day on which the notice or other document was first made available on the website or, if later, when a notice of availability is served or deemed to have been served pursuant to these Articles. Proof that the notice or other document was properly addressed shall be conclusive evidence that the notice by electronic means was given.
  - (g) A member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the Company or of the holders of any class of shares in the Company shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which it was called.
  - (h) Where a member has previously consented to receipt of any notice or document by an electronic communication or using electronic means in respect of its holding of ordinary shares in Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c., such consent shall be deemed to apply in relation to the Company for the purpose of these Articles and no further consent will be required to be obtained by the Company for such purpose.
151. A person entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member or otherwise by operation of law upon supplying to the Company such evidence as the Directors may reasonably require to show his title to the share, and upon supplying also an address within Ireland or the United Kingdom for the service of notices, shall be entitled to have served upon or delivered to him at such address any notice or document to which the said member would have been entitled, and such service or delivery shall for all purposes be deemed a sufficient service or delivery of such notice or document on all persons interested (whether jointly with or as claiming through or under him) in the share. Save as aforesaid any notice or document delivered or sent in pursuance of these Articles by post to or left at the address of any member or, in the event of notice delivered or sent by electronic means, sent to the address last notified to the Company by the member for such purpose, shall, notwithstanding that such member be then dead or bankrupt or in liquidation, and whether or not the Company have notice of his death or bankruptcy or liquidation, be deemed to have been duly served or delivered in respect of any share registered in the name of such member as sole or first-named joint holder.
152. The signature to any notice to be given by or in the name of the Company whether for the purpose of these Articles or otherwise may be written autographically or printed in facsimile.
153. Where a given number of days' notice, or notice extending over any other period, is required to be given, the day of service shall, unless it is otherwise provided, be counted in such number of days or other period.
154. In the event of the winding up of the Company, every member of the Company who is not for the time being in Ireland shall be bound within fourteen days after the passing of an effective resolution to wind up the Company voluntarily, or the making of an order for the winding up of the Company, to serve notice in writing on the Company of his having appointed or appointing some householder or solicitor in Dublin upon whom all summonses, notices, processes, orders and judgments in relation to or under the

winding up of the Company may be served, and in default of such nomination the liquidator of the Company shall be at liberty, on behalf of such member, to appoint some such person, and service upon any such appointee, whether appointed by the member or the liquidator, shall be deemed to be good personal service on such member for all purposes, and where the liquidator makes any such appointment, he shall with all convenient speed give notice thereof to such member by advertisement in at least one daily newspaper circulating in Dublin or by registered letter sent through the post and addressed to such member at his address as mentioned in the Register of Members of the Company as the liquidator may in his absolute discretion decide, and such notice shall be deemed to be served on the day following that on which the advertisement appears or the letter is posted.

155. Without prejudice to the provisions of these Articles, the Company may cease sending notices by post to members where notices have been returned undelivered twice on two consecutive occasions from such members and following such second occasion, reasonable enquiries have failed to establish any new address of the registered holder of the shares.

### **SECRECY**

156. Every Director, Officer, member of a Committee, statutory auditor, manager, trustee, adviser, consultant, representative, agent, accountant, or other person employed in or in connection with the business of the Company or engaged to provide a specialist service to the Company shall, unless exempted by the Directors, before entering upon his duties, sign a declaration pledging himself to observe a strict secrecy respecting all transactions of the Company with its customers and the state of accounts with individuals, and in matters relating thereto, and shall by such declaration pledge himself not to reveal any of the matters which may come to his knowledge in the discharge of his duties, except when required so to do by the Directors, or by any General Meeting, or by a court of law, or by the person to whom such matters relate, and except so far as may be necessary in order to comply with any of the provisions of these Articles.
157. No member shall be entitled to require discovery of or any information respecting any detail of the Company's trading, or any matter which is or may be in the nature of a trade secret, mystery of trade, or secret process which may relate to the conduct of the business of the Company and which in the opinion of the Directors it would be inexpedient in the interests of the members of the Company to communicate to the public.

### **WINDING UP**

158. If the Company shall be wound up (whether the liquidation is voluntary or by the Court) the liquidator may, with the authority of a Special Resolution, divide among the members in specie the whole or any part of the assets of the Company, whether such assets shall consist of property of one kind or of properties of different kinds, and may for such purpose set such value as he deems fair upon each kind of property and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between the members or different classes of members. The liquidator may, with the like authority, vest any part of the assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of members and for contributories as the liquidator, with the like authority, shall think fit and the liquidation of the Company may be closed and the Company dissolved, but so that no member shall be compelled to accept any shares in respect of which there is a liability.

## **DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

159. Subject as herein provided, the Company shall be entitled, at any time after the expiration of six years from the date of registration thereof, to destroy all instruments of transfer of shares in the Company which shall have been then registered and, at any time after the expiration of three years (or such longer period as the Directors shall determine) from the date of cancellation or cessation thereof, all registered certificates for shares and dividend mandates which have been cancelled or have ceased to have effect and, after the expiration of three years (or such longer period as the Directors shall determine) from the date of recording thereof, all notifications of change of address and it shall be conclusively presumed in favour of the Company that every instrument of transfer so destroyed was a valid and effective instrument duly and properly registered and that every certificate for shares so destroyed was a valid and effective instrument duly and properly cancelled and that every other document hereinbefore mentioned so destroyed was a valid and effective document in accordance with the recorded particulars thereof in the books or records of the Company; provided that:-
- (a) the foregoing provisions of this Article shall apply only to the destruction of a document in good faith and without notice of any claim (regardless of the parties thereto) to which the document is or might be relevant; and
  - (b) nothing herein contained shall be construed as imposing upon the Company any liability in respect of the destruction of any such document earlier than as aforesaid or in any case where the conditions of sub-paragraph (l) of this proviso are not fulfilled.

For the purposes of this Article:-

- (i) references to the destruction of any document include references to the disposal thereof in any manner; and
- (ii) references to an instrument of transfer shall be deemed to include references to any document constituting the renunciation of an allotment of any shares in the Company by the allottee in favour of some other person.

## **INDEMNITY**

160. Every Director and other Officer of the Company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in relation to his acts while acting in such office, in which judgment is given in his favour, or in which he is acquitted, or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court under the Acts.

## **RECORD DATES**

161. Subject to the rights attaching to, or the terms of issue of, any shares, any dividend on shares of any class or any distribution, allotment or issue to the holders of any shares of any class (whether to be paid or made pursuant to a resolution of the Company in General Meeting or a resolution of the Directors or otherwise) may be paid or made to the persons registered as the holders of such shares or the persons otherwise entitled thereto at the close of business on a particular date notwithstanding that it may be a date prior to that on which the dividend, distribution, allotment or issue is to be paid or made or on which any resolution relating thereto is passed and any such dividend, distribution, allotment or issue shall be paid or made to them in accordance with their

respective entitlements thereto but without prejudice to the rights *inter se*, in respect of such dividend, distribution, allotment or issue, of any holder or former holder of any such shares.

### UNTRACED SHAREHOLDERS

162. (a) The Company shall be entitled to sell to any person whosoever (including, without limitation, the Company acting in accordance with the provisions of the Act and these Articles), at the best price reasonably obtainable, any share of a holder or any share to which a person is entitled by transmission if and provided that:
- (i) during the period of 12 years prior to the date of the publication of the advertisements referred to in subparagraph (ii) (or, if published on different dates, the later date) no cheque or warrant sent by the Company through the post in a pre-paid letter addressed to the holder or to the person entitled by transmission to the share at his address on the Register of Members or at the last known address given by the holder or the person entitled by transmission as that to which cheques and warrants are to be sent shall have been cashed and no communication in respect of such share shall have been received by the Company from the holder or the person entitled by transmission (provided that during such 12 year period at least three dividends shall have become payable in respect of such share);
  - (ii) the Company shall have given notice of its intention to sell such share by advertisement in a leading daily newspaper with a national circulation in the State and in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the address referred to in subparagraph (i) is located (which advertisements, if not published on the same day, shall have been published within 30 days of each other);
  - (iii) during the further period of three months after the date of the advertisements (or, if published on different dates, the later one) and prior to the exercise of the power of sale, the Company shall not have received any communication in respect of such share from the holder or person entitled by transmission; and
  - (iv) the Company shall have given notice in writing to the appropriate section of any Stock Exchange of its intention to sell such share, if shares of the class concerned are listed or dealt in on any regulated market of any such Stock Exchange and the Company is required by such Stock Exchange to do so.
- (b) To give effect to any such sale the Company may appoint any person to execute as transferor an instrument of transfer of such share and such instrument of transfer shall be as effective as if it had been executed by the holder or the person entitled by the transmission to such share. The transferee shall be entered in the Register of Members as the holder of the shares comprised in any such transfer and he shall not be bound to see to the application of the purchase moneys nor shall his title to the shares be affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the proceedings in reference to the sale.
- (c) If during the period of 12 years referred to in paragraph 162(a)(i), or during any period ending on the date when all the requirements of paragraph 162(a)(i)

have been satisfied, any additional shares have been issued in respect of those held by the holder or person entitled by transmission at the beginning of, or previously so issued during, any such period and all the requirements of paragraph 162(a) and have been satisfied in regard to such additional shares, the Company shall also be entitled to sell the additional shares.

- (d) Subject to Article 128, the Company shall account to the holder or other person entitled to such share for the net proceeds of such sale by carrying all moneys in respect thereof to a separate account which shall be a permanent debt of the Company and the Company shall be deemed to be a debtor and not a trustee in respect thereof for such holder or other person. Moneys carried to such separate account may be either employed in the business of the Company or invested in such investments as the Directors may from time to time think fit. No interest shall be payable to such holder or other person in respect of such moneys and the Company shall not be required to account for any money earned on them.

### ODD-LOT OFFERS

163. (a) For the purposes of this article:
- (i) **“Odd-lot Offer”** shall mean an offer by the Company to Odd-lot Holders to purchase all their Ordinary Shares in the Company on the terms and conditions set out in such offer;
  - (ii) **“Odd-lot”** shall mean a holding of ~~520~~ or fewer Ordinary Shares in the Company; and
  - (iii) **“Odd-lot Holders”** shall mean members who hold Odd-lots.
- (b) Subject to the members of the Company passing or having passed an ordinary resolution to give a specific authority for such Odd-lot Offer and the provisions of any applicable legislation, the Company may at any time make and implement an Odd-lot Offer on such terms as the Board shall determine. Upon the implementation of any Odd-lot Offer, unless Odd-lot Holders to whom any such offer is made have, in accordance with the terms of the Odd-lot Offer, elected to retain their Odd-lots, such Odd-lot Holders shall, subject to applicable law and regulation, be deemed (i) to have agreed to sell any Odd-lots so held on the terms of the Odd-lot Offer and (ii) to have appointed any member of the Board or other person nominated by the Company as the attorney and agent of such Odd-lot Holders with irrevocable authority to complete and execute all or any contracts and/or other documents at the attorney’s discretion in relation to the Odd-lots for the purchase of such Odd-lots by the Company and to do all such other acts and things as may in the opinion of such attorney be necessary or expedient for the purchase of such Odd-lots or in connection with such Odd-lot Offer; and the Board shall be entitled to cause such Odd-lots to be sold (including to the Company) on such basis as the Board may determine and the Company shall account to such Odd-lot Holders for the proceeds attributable to them pursuant to the sale of such Odd-lots.
- (c) Each holder of an Odd-lot for which proceeds from the sale of Odd-lots have not been transferred in accordance with the terms of an Odd-lot Offer shall be recorded as a creditor in the Company’s accounts. No trust shall be created in respect of unclaimed proceeds, no interest shall be payable in respect of the

same and the Company shall not be required to account for any money earned on the unclaimed proceeds. Any such proceeds unclaimed for a period of 12 (twelve) years from the date of sale of the Odd-lots may be declared forfeited by the Board for the benefit of one or more charitable institutions nominated by the Board in its sole discretion.

WE, the several persons whose names and addresses are subscribed, wish to be formed into a Company, in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association, and we agree to take the number of shares in the capital of the Company set opposite our respective names.

| Names, Addresses and Descriptions of Subscribers  | Number of Shares taken by each Subscriber |
|---|---|
| MFSD Holdings Limited<br>Riverside One<br>Sir John Rogerson's Quay<br>Dublin 2<br>D02 X576<br><br>Body corporate<br><br>_____<br>Directors<br>Garreth O'Brien | One                                       |
| MFSD Nominees Limited<br>Riverside One<br>Sir John Rogerson's Quay<br>Dublin 2<br>D02 X576<br><br>Body corporate<br><br>_____<br>Directors<br>Garreth O'Brien | One                                       |
| Total shares taken:   | Two                                       |

Dated this 25th day of November 2016

Witness to the above signature:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_